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Mr. Gates,

REFLECTIONS

with the Authors

ON THE

best Respects.

SURGEONS' BILL:

IN ANSWER TO

THREE PAMPHLETS

IN DEFENCE OF THAT BILL.

BY K

JOHN RING,

MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION OF SURGEONS.

The petitioners againſt this Bill have great reaſon to complain. Their privileges have been violated; and even their property has been invaded. They have been too long trampled under foot: and however *grating* it may be to the ears of *ſome people*, they have the ſtrongeſt title in the world, to have their complaints heard with patience and attention.

Lord THURLOW's *Speech.*

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1798.

BRITISH MUSEUM

DEDICATION.

TO THE

MEMBERS

OF THE

CORPORATION OF SURGEONS,

Who oppoſed the late Surgeons' Bill.

GENTLEMEN,

I EMBRACE the favourable opportunity which this Publication affords me, to pay a juſt tribute of applauſe to your ſtrenuous and unremitted exertions in defence of your injured rights; and to congratulate you on your victory.

To the Work which I now dedicate to you, in anſwer to three Pamphlets written in vindication of the late Surgeons' bill, of inglorious memory, I prefix three letters; which I addreſſed to you and others, at different periods, while the bill was in agitation. The firſt was publiſhed at a time, when the ſecret artifices, undue influence, and groſs miſrepreſentations of our adverſaries, threatened to bear down all oppoſition; and rendered all reſiſtance to their efforts hopeleſs, unleſs the attention of the Legiſlature, and of the Public, could be rouſed. The great champion of our cauſe had not then riſen. The bill had been read twice, and committed. It was to be read a third time on the day when that letter appeared; and it was expected to be paſſed without much debate.

Parliament laboured under a deluſion; and, to diſpel that deluſion, when ſtrengthened by the powerful and impoſing influence

ence of great names, was an arduous attempt. The ſubject was new and intricate;

" Puzzled with mazes, and perplex'd with errors."

Our enemies were advancing triumphantly in their career; erecting their haughty creſts, and glorying in their ſtrength. It was time to reſiſt their inroads; and to ſet bounds to their ambition. It was time to repel their inſults; and remind them of the humble origin from which they ſprung.

It was neceſſary to illuſtrate the various obſcure points in queſtion, by a clear yet conciſe explanation. It was neceſſary to diveſt a ſubject ſo abſtruſe of technical phraſeology; to intereſt the paſſions in the cauſe of juſtice; and to bring a forcible appeal home to every boſom.

Inſtead of dry abſtract reaſoning, it was neceſſary to urge the *argumentum ad hominem:*

nem: to prove the flagrant miſconduct of the petitioners for the bill in times paſt; to prove they were unfit to be truſted with *new* powers, becauſe they had abuſed the *old*; and to rouſe the public indignation againſt their atrocious attempts.

The ſecond and third letters were written at ſubſequent periods: to remove prejudices unjuſtly excited; and to elucidate ſeveral points, which even then were not well underſtood. *Then*, as well as *now*, our opponents ſtrained every nerve, to conciliate favour by falſe pretences; and to gratify their ambition by an overbearing influence. They raiſed the miſt of prejudice; to prevent the Public from diſcerning the true nature of the queſtion, and their own real intereſt in the cauſe. In ſhort, they ſeemed fearful, leſt they ſhould leave any ſiniſter manœuvre, or mean ſtratagem, untried.

What-

Whatever opinion may be formed of the publication or republication of theſe letters, by our lukewarm friends or inſidious foes, I venture to aſſert, that had it not been for the explanations given in the public prints, from time to time, by profeſſional men, who muſt underſtand beſt what grievances they feel, even the wonderful abilities and exertions of our counſel, and of our other advocates in Parliament, would not have been ſufficient, to convince the members of the Legiſlature of the juſtice and neceſſity of attending to our petitions. From the high eminence on which they are placed, it is impoſſible for them to perceive all the hardſhip and oppreſſion, under which perſons in the humble vales of life groan.

REFLEC-

REFLECTIONS, &c.

LETTER I.

To the Members of the Corporation of Surgeons.

GENTLEMEN,

A BILL has been brought into Parliament, and was nearly carried through both Houſes, calculated to give a deſpotic power over the Surgeons' Company to a junto, ſelf-nominated, conſiſting of an inſignificant number, who fill up all vacancies in their own body; ſo that you are to obey laws, made by perſons who have an intereſt diſtinct from your own; laws, made by a legiſlative body, in which you have no repreſentation. This is a degradation of your profeſſion, and even of your ſpecies; it is a daring attack on the free principles of the Britiſh conſtitution.

The increaſing number and reputation of the members of the Company, deſerve that the title of Corporation ſhould be exchanged for that of College; but an attempt to confirm, extend, and perpetuate arbitrary power, and to refuſe members of a ſcientific body, which the Legiſlature dignifies with the title of College, the privilege of a vote, in electing thoſe who are to fill the offices, and to maintain the honour of the ſociety, is a relic of *Barberiſm*.

The Court of Examiners have groſsly abuſed the unlimited power given them by the former act, by paſſing bye-laws to render ſuch perſons as practiſe midwifery, or pharmacy, ineligible as Examiners. This, which ſhows the cloven foot of ſelf-intereſt too clearly to eſcape detection, would exclude a Hunter, a Cruikſhank, a Ford, a Carr, a White, a Denman, and even a Farquhar, men not inferior to the preſent members of the Court of Examiners, from a ſituation, where their abilities might have been ſo eminently ſerviceable to the world. In ſhort, they ſeem to have heard of the bed of Procruſtes; or, to ſpeak more in ſtyle, they wiſh to preſerve a remembrance of the Company from which they ſprung; they wiſh to have no wigs, but ſuch as fit *their own blocks*.

Are

Are they fearful, that the public are beginning to prefer men, who unite a knowledge of the practice of phyſic to that of ſurgery? Or do they dread a competition, and compariſon of abilities, with ſuch men, *in their own court?*

Are thoſe ſurgeons, who have obtained the diploma of the Corporation, competent? Or are the Examiners deſirous of getting rich by *degrees?* Are they dazzled by the ſplendour of the precious metal, and prevented from ſeeing their incompetency *till after examination*, when they become *rivals?*

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt humble Servant,

An Old Member of the Corporation.

LETTER II.

To the Committee of Surgeons for oppoſing the Surgeons' Bill.

GENTLEMEN,

NOTWITHSTANDING much has already been written on the nature of the Surgeons' bill; yet, from the intricacy of the ſubject, there are many points not well underſtood, except by thoſe immediately concerned; and ſome of

them have an intereſt in enveloping the matter in obſcurity.

I am induced to take up my pen by hearing a miſrepreſentation of the buſineſs made by a perſon of that deſcription, who aſſerted that the opponents of the bill objected to it, becauſe they did not like to pay quarterage, a ſum of ten ſhillings; and that there certainly were ſome abuſes in the management of the affairs of the Company; for which reaſon he thought an act of Parliament neceſſary, in order to correct them. Such inſinuations are calculated to deceive thoſe to whom they are addreſſed. The opponents of the bill are actuated by no ſuch paltry conſideration as the tax alluded to; on the contrary, they are willing to pay a much more conſiderable ſum, if it can be proved that the real intereſt of the Company requires it; but they object to the principle of the clauſe, which veſts in the governors of the Corporation a power of levying contributions without conſent of the members at large. Abuſes in the management of the finances of the Company there certainly are; how the preſent bill tends to rectify them, I cannot diſcern. The firſt clauſe erects the Corporation into a College, a much more proper name for a ſcientific body; and the governors of the College are dignified with titles ſuitable to their rank in the Society: but the ordinary members are no

where

where recogniſed by the correſponding title of Fellows. Every member, on his admiſſion, is to ſwear, "That, ſo long as he ſhall remain a "member of the College, he will in all things "be obedient to the council of the ſaid College, "and to the rules, acts, ſtatutes, and ordi-"nances thereof." It is therefore of the utmoſt conſequence to the members of the Corporation, that the members of the council ſhould be juſt and impartial. Whether this object is more likely to be attained by their continuing to elect themſelves, or by their being elected by the members of the Corporation at large, or by the medium of a ſelect committee, it is for the wiſdom of the Legiſlature to decide.

In the College of Phyſicians, the Examiners, under the name of Cenſors, are elected by and from the Fellows at large; and would continue to be made in the ſame manner if the members were as numerous as the members of the Corporation of Surgeons; but in this, and all other reſpects, the members of the Corporation will bow with the utmoſt ſubmiſſion to the determination of the Legiſlature. The circumſtance of election in this Corporation is of much more importance than would appear to any perſon not perfectly acquainted with their affairs. It was juſtly obſerved by one of the counſel for the bill, "That the public in general are not

"judges

" judges of the merits of medical men." It naturally follows, that they are liable to be impoſed on by ſpecious appearances, ſplendid titles, and high-ſounding names.

The ſituation of Preſident, &c. is not only lucrative, but honourable, and one of the firſt recommendations to public favour and high diſtinction. It is the road to riches, and to fame. What ſhall we ſay then to a bye-law, which, with mean ſelfiſh policy, ſtops up this path of preferment, and bars this road of honour, to nine parts out of ten of the profeſſion? Would it not be prudent to hold out encouragement to the members of the Corporation, and to endeavour to excite emulation, in order to promote a more diligent cultivation of the ſcience, and a more ample ſupply of good ſurgeons for the ſervice of the public, both in peace and war? The bye-law alluded to declares, that no perſon practiſing pharmacy ſhall be eligible as an Examiner. It may be ſaid in reply, that the members know this when they enter into the Company. This is not true, as far as regards the writer of theſe remarks; and probably many others may be in the ſame predicament. After paſſing an examination, ſwallowing the monſtrous oath, paying the fee for his diploma, and reading in that diploma that he was entitled to all the privileges, franchiſes, and immunities,

granted

granted by the late act of Parliament to the Corporation of Surgeons of London; on his return home, he perused the statutes of the Corporation, which were given to him at his departure from the Hall, and had the mortification to find, that a malignant bye-law left him but little hope of attaining eminence in his profession. But whatever complaint he may have to make against the exclusion of those who practise pharmacy, he protests still more against the recent exclusion of those who practise midwifery, that most ancient and most important branch of surgery itself. It is, with respect to a great part of the members of the Company, a kind of *ex post facto* law, and breach of faith. When the governors of the Corporation were entrusted with a power of making bye-laws, it certainly was not foreseen that they would make laws paramount to the laws of the land; and, from motives of self-interest, frustrate the benevolent intention of the Legislature.

An apology was lately made for the inaccuracy of a memorandum of a resolution of the Court of Assistants, that it was agreed on a quarter of an hour before dinner; and when, just afterwards, it was asserted that there was no reason to fear any improper bye-law would be suffered to pass, as they must be signed by certain great officers of the law, it was well observed

by

by a royal Duke, that this was very true, unleſs they ſigned them a quarter of an hour before dinner! It may be ſaid, that the great names who fill the offices in the Corporation, forbid all ſuſpicion of any improper attempt. The fact is, that all the danger ariſes from this ſource. By great names, the minds of the Legiſlature and of the Public are lulled into ſecurity; of which the preſent bill, which paſſed through five ſtages out of ſix, unoppoſed, and unſuſpected, affords a lamentable proof. Had it not been for the ſtrenuous exertions of its opponents, it would have increaſed the emoluments of the Examiners, and the revenue of the Company, already flouriſhing, by freſh contributions, levied on ſurgeons within ſeven and ten miles; and by taxing army and navy ſurgeons, would have robbed them of their dearly-earned rewards, guarantied to them by the faith of more than one act of Parliament.

It is for the Legiſlature to determine, whether any ſurgeon ſhould be allowed to practiſe in any part of the Britiſh dominions without paſſing an examination; but it may ſafely be affirmed, that twenty-one ſurgeons are not ſufficient for the due attendance of the vaſt number of perſons, who live in, and within ten miles of this great metropolis; therefore no impediments ſhould be thrown in the way of other practitioners, nor any

diſcouragements allowed to damp the ardour of their purſuits.

When the Surgeons ſeparated from the Barbers' Company, they claimed a right to adminiſter medicines. Whether the excluſion of thoſe who practiſe pharmacy from places of honour and emolument ariſes from falſe delicacy, from miſtaken pride, from ſelf-intereſt, or from jealouſy; or whether thoſe who paſſed the act of excluſion meant to expreſs a contempt for what they did not underſtand; or whether it ariſes from all theſe cauſes combined, it is difficult to ſay: certain it is, that it operates as a ſtigma, and anſwers the purpoſe intended, by raiſing the mere mechanical ſurgeon in the eſtimation of the public, and depreſſing the man of general medical ſcience in an equal degree.

When we conſider how few of the public are able to employ a phyſician and a ſurgeon, or ſurgeon and apothecary, and when we conſider the army and navy ſervice, the neceſſity of a number of perſons, who unite the ſtudy and practice of the two branches, muſt be obvious; and it requires little argument to prove, that what a celebrated author ſaid on another occaſion, may be ſaid of theſe two ſiſter arts, "*Utraque igitur per ſe in-*
"*digens altera alterius auxilio eget.*"

The united ſkill of phyſic and ſurgery will avail

but little towards effecting a cure, in many caſes, unleſs the internal and external remedies are properly prepared; it is therefore a queſtion of ſome magnitude, whether pharmacy ſhould be practiſed by men of ſcience and liberal education, or by porters. If by the former, it is not to the intereſt of the community to caſt ſuch a ſlur on apothecaries, as may baniſh every well-educated man from the profeſſion.

In the amended bill, Mr. Dundas is advanced to the rank of Examiner, notwithſtanding the act of excluſion in the laws of the Company, with that ſingle exception, remains in full force. While juſtice is done to his merit, we have reaſon to believe that the Legiſlature will not ſuffer the great body of the Corporation to labour under that excluſion: this would be a flagrant violation of the firſt principles of all juſtice. If the practice of pharmacy could diſgrace an ordinary ſurgeon, it would diſgrace a ſerjeant ſurgeon much more. If a ſerjeant ſurgeon has occaſion to practiſe the mixed branches, an ordinary ſurgeon has much greater occaſion. If it is the duty of the Legiſlature to protect the rights of one, it is ſtill more the duty of the Legiſlature to protect the rights of many.

I ſhall conclude with one more obſervation, probably of more importance than all the reſt. A repeal of the obnoxious bye-laws will be a mere

matter

matter of form, unleſs the elective franchiſe is extended. The relatives, pupils, and apprentices of Examiners, with or without merit, with or without genius or application, may continue to be elected; by which all competition, and all emulation, will, as heretofore, be confined to a very narrow channel; and the private intereſt of a few individuals predominate over the public good.

I am, wiſhing you all the ſucceſs the juſtice of your cauſe ſo well deſerves,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt humble Servant,

An Old Member of the Corporation.

LETTER III.

To the Committee of Surgeons for oppoſing the Surgeons' Bill.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE, on former occaſions, addreſſed to you ſome ſtrictures on the conduct of your opponents; I ſhall now add a few more. By the preſent bill, eleven perſons have the modeſty to requeſt, that they, and a few of their friends, in all twenty-one, may have abſolute dominion for life, over the liberty and property of your whole Corporation, conſiſting of five or ſix hundred members. Suppoſing the requeſt to be reaſonable, the word *Corporation* ought not to be

exchanged for that of *College*. In a *College* there are perſons called *Fellows*, who claim the right of electing, or being elected, to all offices; but *they order theſe things better in a Corporation*. This is an emblem, not of a ſcientific body, nor of the body politic, but of the *natural body*; where the rights, privileges, franchiſes, and immunities of all the members are, to labour for the *head*, in order to fill its mouth with *good things*.—So far there is ſome reſemblance; but in one reſpect the Corporation of Surgeons differs from a *natural* body, for the members of it labour for the head, without any reciprocal advantage: it may therefore be called, an *unnatural* body.

The petitioners for the bill are charged by one of their own number, as well as by yourſelves, with groſs miſmanagement, and waſting of your treaſures; but in the preſent bill, they do all in their power to prevent ſuch complaints in future, by introducing a clauſe to make your treaſures *their own*; and ſurely a man may do what he pleaſes with *his own*.

The former oath bound a member to obey the *lawful* commands; the preſent binds him to obey *all* the commands of his taſk-maſters. To give them their due, it was humane and conſiderate, no longer to call a member of the Company a *Freeman*.

Some

Some think the power of making bye-laws was abuſed, when the Examiners invaded the laws of the land, and made arbitrary excluſions of nine-tenths of the members from places of profit and diſtinction; but the judicious *few* are of opinion, that it is the height of preſumption in practitioners of medicine, to aſpire to rank themſelves with an off-ſet of a *Company of Barbers.*

In the amended act, Mr. Dundas, one of the ſerjeant-ſurgeons to his Majeſty, is a ſolitary exception: all others are ſtill excluded, let their merit be ever ſo great. It remains to be ſeen, whether Mr. Dundas will accept of ſuch a compliment.

This arbitrary power of making bye-laws, like all other arbitrary power, ſcorns to be confined within bounds; it ſtrives to burſt its channel, and overflow its banks. The extenſion of the juriſdiction of the Company will certainly help to fill the coffers of the Examiners and other officers of the Corporation; it will enable them to reap a more extenſive harveſt, *and a golden harveſt it will be*; but it too much reſembles a farce acted in another country, called *fraterni-zation*, in which the performers give you the *fraternal embrace* while they *pick your pocket.*

Under

Under our former conſtitution, and under our ancient rulers, we ſuffered much; being compelled to pay fines, or to ſerve difficult and troubleſome offices, while we were excluded from thoſe which are eaſy, pleaſant, and profitable. What may we not expect from the preſent rulers, and the preſent conſtitution! Our ancient rulers excluded thoſe who practiſe pharmacy from all advantageous offices; our preſent rulers have excluded whoſe who practiſe a legitimate and eſſential branch of ſurgery itſelf. *Their fathers chaſtiſed us with whips, but they have chaſtiſed us with ſcorpions.*

Although you have hitherto gained no one advantage for yourſelves, yet I ſincerely congratulate you on the noble ſtruggle which you have made, in defence of the rights and liberties of the whole Corporation,—in defence of the rights and liberties of the army and navy ſurgeons, and of the whole profeſſion. If you want the *patronage* which the army and navy ſurgeons enjoy, if you have no *great perſonages* to eſpouſe your cauſe, yet you have a *Ruſſell* and a *Thurlow*; and, I truſt, the wiſdom and juſtice of the Legiſlature will not ſuffer all the rights and all the intereſts of the Corporation to be, as they hitherto have been, *quite overlooked*. The ſame temperate appeals, and the

the ſame manly perſeverance, muſt eventually triumph.

I am, with great reſpect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt humble Servant,

An Old Member of the Corporation.

An Analyſis of "The Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow."

THIS Dreſſing is of the *cauſtic* kind; but, when applied to the noble Lord for whom it is intended, it will not *ſtick*. The preparer of it, who expreſſes a ſovereign contempt for pharmacy, that gem of which he knows not the value, is ſaid already to repent of his temerity, in handling ſuch acrimonious ingredients; but it is too late, when he has *burnt his fingers*.

This compoſition abounds equally with ſimile, and with ſatire: and it would puzzle Scaliger himſelf to determine, *whether* his ſimile or his ſatire *is moſt* unfortunate. He no where diſputes the abilities of Lord Thurlow; but endeavours to depreciate and vilify the character of a lawyer and of an orator. Some apology may be made for his abuſe of Lord Thurlow's oratory, ſince he ſtill ſmarts under its laſh; but none for his

waſting

waſting his time in retaliation, when he ſhould be dreſſing his own ſores.

So much, at preſent, for his ſatire.—In regard to his ſimiles,—one of the moſt ſtriking is, his comparing the ſcience of ſurgery to Mount Ætna; while he compares the profeſſion of a barber to a hillock of mud, growing like an excreſcence on its ſurface. The firſt inundation, he ſays, buried the hillock; but I am inclined to think, from the dulneſs of his lucubrations, that it was not ſufficient to waſh away the *mud*.

This ſame inundation, he adds, propagated in a mighty torrent the blaze of diſcovery. This is a moſt amazing diſcovery indeed; eſpecially, as he tells us juſt before, that medicine is the firſt art that is practiſed in human ſociety, becauſe we cannot exiſt without it; and the laſt that is brought to perfection, on account of its *abſtruſeneſs*: and, juſt after, that Lord Thurlow muſt be a very ſuperficial obſerver not to know, that ſurgery, of all the arts which the world has produced, is at once the moſt ancient, moſt critical, and moſt profound; and that the *longeſt life*, with the *moſt recondite ſpeculation*, is ſcarcely ſufficient to develope its *intricacies*, or unfold its inventions. He gravely tells us, that this moſt abſtruſe of all arts has lately burſt forth like a volcano.—An *eruption*, it is true, has lately

lately taken place in the neighbourhood of St. Thomas's Hoſpital;—not an eruption of arts and ſciences, but an eruption of the *ſcribbling itch.*

This *profound* and *critical* writer informs us, that although ſurgeons were originally incorporated with barbers, there is no reaſon why they ſhould not now be ſeparated and exalted. This is another wonderful diſcovery.—As to the firſt part of it, the ſeparation, no ſurgeon will diſpute it; and, after reading a page or two of the performance in queſtion, the barbers will have no objection to it; as they will readily diſcern, that ſome members of the Corporation of Surgeons are *no ſhavers.*

As to the exaltation of Surgery,—I hope the author, if he really is a member of the Surgeons' Company, will in future be ſparing of his literary effuſions; or he will furniſh others, beſides Lord Thurlow, with an argument for degrading, inſtead of exalting, one of the moſt ancient, moſt uſeful, and moſt honourable of all profeſſions. Neither ſurgeons nor barbers will boaſt of a member, who cannot handle an edged tool without cutting himſelf.

While I was writing theſe remarks, I received a letter from a diſtinguiſhed opponent of the

late infamous bill; in which he ſays, "Have "you Birch's book, which he calls *A Dreſſing* "*for Lord Thurlow?* If you have not, pray "get it, and lend it to every one you can."—This may poſſibly preſerve the wretched production for ſome time from *that end,* to which it ſeems by its nature to be deſtined. I muſt however remark, that no ſarcaſms of Lord Thurlow are ſo ſevere, or leave ſo indelible a ſtain on the character of the Court of Examiners, as the panegyric of one of their own party. Well may they exclaim, This was not our enemy, elſe we could have borne it; but it was thou, even thou, our familiar friend. We took ſweet counſel together, and walked in the houſe of Lords as friends.—Whether they will conſider him as their friend in future, is not for me to determine; nor whether their vindication was written by Mr. *Birch*; nor whether they prevailed on him to write it. If they did, it is not the firſt time they have prepared *a rod for their own backs.*

The author of the pamphlet, whoever he is, has two other elegant ſimiles, viz. he ſays, the two profeſſions of a ſurgeon and a barber are like a living and a dead acorn, planted in the ſame ſpot of earth: the one has become a ſtupendous oak, the ſhade and ornament of the foreſt; while the other, deprived of growth

and

and vitality, lies mouldering in its foundations. This author, who has diſcovered the foundations of a dead acorn, will never diſcover the *longitude*, unleſs it be the longitude of a *barber's pole*. —Firſt he compares the profeſſion of a barber to an excreſcence *growing* on the ſurface of ſurgery; next he affirms it is like a dead acorn, and does not grow at all.—The truth is, that, if we look a little deeper than the ſurface, we may readily diſcern the reaſon of their being incorporated together. Shaving is undoubtedly a ſurgical operation; and when it was only performed for medical purpoſes, was as reputable as bleeding: but when it became the faſhion to mow the chin, it was followed by numbers of illiterate perſons; and conſequently fell into diſrepute. I cannot, therefore, agree with this author, that their primary conſolidation is a diſgrace to the age that joined them, nor that it is any imputation of diſhonour upon *this*, to refuſe to recogniſe their ſeparation, while the preſs teems with obſervations written by a ſurgeon, which would diſgrace a barber; or at leaſt tend to prove, that he is only *a chip of the old block*.

He ſays, The paltry mound, that is, the barbers—which obſtructed the overflow of the burning mountain, that is, the ſurgeons, continues with the ſame *inſipidity*, where chance firſt ordained it to grow. This opinion may

ariſe from his want of *taſte*: but happy would it have been for his readers, if the paltry mound had ſtill obſtructed the overflow; and prevented them from being plagued with his miſerable *eruption*.

If this author is wiſe, and knows his own intereſt, he will be cautious how he awakens the vengeance of thoſe redoubtable heroes, who mow down all before them; and take many a better man than him by the noſe. If they are at preſent in purſuit of higher game, they may prevail on their friend Mr. Packwood to give him a Dreſſing.

Our author aſks Lord Thurlow, what the bill is, againſt which his Lordſhip has ſummoned up all the *phlegm* of his temperament? For *phlegm* read *choler*. Had our author been one of the builders of the tower of Babel, he would have aſked for what he did *not* want, and thereby have procured what he wanted.—He proceeds,—Is it a bill for the aggrandiſement of a few by the ruin of the many?—Is it a bill for the extinction of ſcience?—Is it a bill to deprive the naval ſurgeon of that final and laſting recompence, a domeſtic ſettlement?—To theſe queries *he* anſwers, *No*; *the Houſe of Lords* anſwers, *Yes*.

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He adds, I need not tell your Lordſhip, that in every profeſſion there muſt be ſome ſtandard of appreciation: and in another place he upbraids Lord Thurlow, for having denied to the public that neceſſary and indiſpenſable teſt of chirurgical ſkill, an *anatomical* tribunal. For *anatomical* read *chirurgical*. If he means to ſay, that you may become a ſkilful ſurgeon by mere anatomical purſuits, he might as well ſay, that you may become an excellent architect in a brick-field.

Whether the members of the Corporation ſhould enjoy the excluſive right of practiſing ſurgery, or whether no ſuch encouragement is neceſſary, and the promiſcuous practice of that difficult art ſhould be tolerated as of late, is a queſtion worthy of the ſerious deliberation, and collected wiſdom, of Parliament: but it ill becomes thoſe perſons to contend for an *excluſive* juriſdiction, who have never given any other teſt of ability, than what is given by thoſe, whom their jealouſy has excluded from having any ſhare in that juriſdiction.

Our author gives us to underſtand, that he has the happineſs of being one of the *elect*. *We*, ſays he, could have diſcriminated genius: *We* could have ſelected it from the common maſs of empiriciſm, and have recommended it to notice.

lice.—How *We* apples ſwim!—But, he adds, *mankind* cannot diſcriminate. Therefore what he ſubjoins may be true, namely, that they place confidence in ſuch as himſelf. Who, ſays he, would employ a man becauſe he had practiſed *between the poles?*—And, pray, where has our admirable author practiſed, but between the poles? Perhaps he means, between the tropics: as to himſelf, I ſuſpect he practiſes *Under the Pole.* As a well-judged compliment to himſelf, he tells us, that mankind conſide only in ſuch as himſelf; and that his practice is ſanctioned by the general approbation of ſuch as *cannot diſcriminate.*

Who, he exclaims triumphantly, would employ a man becauſe he had practiſed *between the poles*, or exerciſed his knife among the blacks of the Eaſt, or the ſlaves of the Weſtern world? Take care, Sir, how you talk of the ſlaves of the Weſtern world, leſt the Biſhop of Rocheſter ſhould accuſe you of democracy, as he did the petitioners againſt the Surgeons' bill, becauſe they wiſhed for the Corporation to have, as other ſcientific bodies have, and as other corporations have, ſome ſhare, not in the management, (that would be democracy,) but in the election of thoſe who were to make laws for them, and to have the management of their own affairs; a privilege of which the Corporation were deprived by a former *Surgeons' bill*;—

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a privilege enjoyed even by *Barbers*. But it is rank hereſy, and a damnable opinion, to ſuppoſe that the *people* of the Surgeons' Community, or any other community, have any thing to do with laws, but *to obey them!*

Never was there a bill of more conſequence to the community brought before the Legiſlature; and never one of a more perplexed and intricate nature; and of which the merits were leſs underſtood by the public. In order to be able to form a juſt judgment, to do ſtrict juſtice to contending parties, and to conſult the great intereſt of the public at large, in a bill of ſuch a nature, it is neceſſary that Legiſlators, whoſe attention is engaged by the great concerns of the empire, ſhould receive information and explanation from the profeſſors of the ſcience in general, and the members of the Corporation at large; as well as from the framers of the bill, who had an intereſt in deceiving them. Such extenſive information little accords with the ſurreptitious manner in which the Surgeons' bill was conducted through its different ſtages by the ſupporters of that bill. Even when an oppoſition to it aroſe, every ſpecies of miſrepreſentation was had recourſe to, in order to diſguiſe the truth, and conceal the real merits of the cauſe.

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By the framers of the bill it was aſſerted, that the oppoſition to it aroſe only from a few perſons practiſing pharmacy; and from ſome perſons who objected to pay them their paltry quarterage. By a right reverend Prelate, related to one of them, it was affirmed, that the petitioners againſt the bill were *levellers*; and by another right reverend Prelate, that they were democrats; —aſſertions, all equally deſtitute of foundation.

The conduct of the framers of the bill, who affected a ſuperiority and ſupercilious contempt, which even a poſſeſſion of the talents they want, could not juſtify, was ſufficient to excite in their opponents more than *phlegm*. This gave riſe to the different letters publiſhed on that occaſion; the petitioners againſt the bill conceiving it to be a duty they owed to the public, to the profeſſion, and to themſelves, to expoſe the clandeſtine arts and iniquitous deſigns of their oppreſſors, and to repel the ſhafts of calumny.—Conſcious of the uprightneſs of their intentions, and equally deteſting democracy on the one hand, and deſpotiſm on the other, they heartily agree with the Biſhop of Rocheſter, that it would be happy for mankind, if *all monſters* had been *ſtrangled in the birth*; but they little expected to be called *levellers* by the Biſhop of *Bangor*; who is himſelf *the greateſt leveller on the Bench.*

But,

But, to return to the author of the Dreſſing: why ſhould a man deſerve leſs confidence, for exerciſing his knife among the *blacks* in the Eaſt, or the *ſlaves* in the Weſtern world, than he for exerciſing his knife among his fellow-citizens, the *whites* and *freemen* of London, or his pen againſt that reſpectable and venerable character, Lord Thurlow? But whom will that man not calumniate? and who can be injured by the calumny of that man, who accuſes Government of the horrid crime of murdering our wounded ſoldiers and ſeamen, to ſave the expenſe of their maintenance?

Not content with defaming the character of Lord Thurlow, our author inſults even over the infirmities of his age: but it is not the firſt time that the old lion has been inſulted by an aſs.

This writer, who inſults over Lord Thurlow's decrepitude, who ſpares neither his age nor his infirmity, reminds him, that he is not ſo old, but that he may yet be afflicted with the ſtone, or a cancer in the rectum;—the complaint from which his brother ſuffered ſuch excruciating torments. In that caſe, he remarks, his Lordſhip muſt not expect, that the men who live at *the ſign of the Red Rag will* be very *lenient operators*. This is a friendly hint; and, while it juſtifies his Lordſhip in propoſing, that ſuch perſons

as the author of the Dreſſing ſhould be compelled to put out a ſign, that he might know how to ſhun them, as a ſailor ſhuns a rock, and a ſchool-boy *Birch*,—it proves the title of this *humane* ſurgeon to live at the ſign of the *Red Rag*.

He tells Lord Thurlow, for his conſolation, that, like the tyrant Dionyſius, he may live to be afraid of his *barber*; but, if his Lordſhip will take his word, he has much more reaſon to be afraid of his *ſurgeon*. In one part of his book he ſeems jealous of the honours conferred on the Veterinary College; in another he complains, that the *farrier* has been permitted to uſurp the place of the *ſurgeon*. If Lord Thurlow has any regard for his horſes, he will not allow *ſuch a ſurgeon* to uſurp the place of his *farrier*.

He tells us, that the greateſt of poets was deſcended from a *ſurgeon*; and that the greateſt of the evangeliſts *was a ſurgeon*. From his talent in fiction, he himſelf ſeems to be deſcended from the poet; for all he ſays is not *goſpel*.

He ſays, Power never makes ſuch implacable enemies, as when it is exerciſed to the downfal of ſcience.—This is a very indifferent compli-

ment to ſcience. An elegant and accompliſhed author ſays,

———ingenuas didiciſſe fideliter artes,
Emollit mores, nec ſinit eſſe feros.

Our author, on the contrary, tells us, that no men are ſuch implacable enemies as men of ſcience. If this be the caſe, from ſcience, and men of ſcience, good Lord deliver us. But I truſt it will be acknowledged by every one, except ſuch as are totally devoid of all ſcience, that no men are ſo able to revenge injuries, or ſo ready to forgive them, as men of ſcience.

He complains, that Lord Thurlow has diſconcerted the plans of himſelf and his aſſociates; that he has *calumniated* them, and given them an *irreparable affront:* yet he affirms that he cannot *injure* them. After this, we ſhould not expect he would repreſent the name of Thurlow, as for ever recorded with deteſtation, and pronounced with contempt, in the annals of medical ſcience; and the riſing generation of ſurgeons, like ſo many ſavages, exulting over his aſhes, and burning him in effigy like *Guy Fawkes.* For us, adds he, our meaſure of revenge will be full, from the inevitable obloquy that will attend your *decrepitude.*—If implacability is the criterion of ſcience, our author eclipſes

Newton: but who would expect, after the barbarous and inhuman ſentiments expreſſed above, and his telling us he is in good practice, that he ſhould ſuppoſe Lord Thurlow's want of humanity would have rendered him incapable of being a ſurgeon?

He aſks, whether the functions of a ſurgeon can be adequately exerciſed by a ſtudent in bell-metal mortars. If a ſtudent in bell-metal mortars is unfit to be a ſurgeon, *à fortiori* he is unfit to be an Examiner; and yet, among the framers of the late bill are to be found more than one or two ſtudents in *bell-metal mortars*. It may be a conſolation to ſome of the younger members of the Corporation to know, that either the royal touch, or the ſituation of hoſpital ſurgeons, whether obtained by purchaſe or connexion, is capable of concealing, if not obliterating, the taint of this *original ſin*.

The excluſion of thoſe who practiſe pharmacy, or midwifery, from the Court of Examiners, ariſes not from pride, but from jealouſy and ſelf-intereſt. It is to the intereſt of the Examiners to exclude a formidable rival; but it is not to the intereſt of the public to ſeparate the practice of kindred arts, and put aſunder what nature has joined; nor to reſpect a man the *more*, in pro-

proportion as he becomes *leſs* uſeful, and of courſe *leſs* reſpectable.

What, indeed, has ſurgery to boaſt of more reputable than pharmacy? Is it the adminiſtering of a clyſter, or the cleanſing of a fiſtula? Not that I really think either of theſe offices mean; or wiſh to caſt the leaſt imputation upon either. *Homo ſum, humani nihil à me alienum puto:* but I wiſh to remind thoſe, who affect a ſuperiority not warranted by reaſon, how ill-founded their pretenſions are. It may ſeem ſtrange, that any perſons practiſing pharmacy, ſhould have ſigned an approbation of a bill calculated to injure themſelves; it was committing a kind of ſuicide, and cutting their own throats; but the bill was fallacious, and the bye-laws were to be confirmed without being recited. Some of thoſe gentlemen did it inadvertently; others to oblige their patrons; more than one of them may ſay, with their brother in Romeo and Juliet, *My poverty, and not my will, conſented.*

But what heightens the injuſtice, and aggravates the abſurdity of the conduct of the Examiners and their adherents, is, that almoſt all of them, if not all, practiſe pharmacy in a greater or leſs degree; that is, as far as their intereſt requires, and their opportunities admit. —Is the profeſſion of ſurgery rendered reſpecta-

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ble by fraud, or by jeſuitical duplicity, and that phariſaical hypocriſy, which would diſgrace any other profeſſion? Is it rendered reſpectable by their ſtigmatiſing others for what they practiſe themſelves, or by their endeavouring to impoveriſh others, for following a branch of the profeſſion by which they are enriched? No: but as it is to the intereſt of the public to have as many able ſurgeons as poſſible, it is to their intereſt to have as few as poſſible: as it is to the intereſt of the public to promote the general cultivation of the ſcience, it is to their intereſt to prevent it.

In regard to pharmacy, they ought to ſtudy it more, or practiſe it leſs; and in regard to phyſic, they ſhould give ſome proof of their underſtanding it, or not practiſe it at all. Though it is a queſtion leſs agitated of late, it is of infinitely more importance, inaſmuch as caſes in phyſic occur ſo much more frequently, and as the public are much leſs able to diſcriminate either the nature of the caſe, or the merit of the practitioner in phyſic, than in ſurgery. Surgical empirics kill their thouſands, but medical empirics their ten thouſands; not by the knife, nor by the hatchet, which give alarm, but by balls, or rather pills, and powder which makes *no report.*

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The neceſſity of compelling every man to give ſome teſt of his medical, as well as chirurgical abilities, has often been urged, and, I hope, will not always be urged in vain. Mankind are tremblingly alive to external diſeaſes and accidents, which are the moſt frequent objects of ſurgery; but as to internal diſeaſes, no one can eſtimate their importance, but ſuch as have made them the objects of their laborious reſearch, and patient inveſtigation. The ſuperior importance of phyſic to ſurgery, holds good even in fleets and armies, where far more periſh by ſickneſs than by the ſword: yet a cure in ſurgery is moſt likely to be crowned with popular applauſe, and to attract the admiration both of the great vulgar, and of the ſmall. The reaſon is obvious: whatever is ſuperficial, is moſt on a level with their underſtanding.

Since, therefore, the knowledge and practice of phyſic add dignity to the character of a ſurgeon, and the knowledge and practice of pharmacy do not degrade it; and ſince humanity, policy, reaſon, and juſtice require, that the public ſhould obtain medical aſſiſtance, in ordinary caſes, at a moderate expenſe, no perſons can be ſo well qualified to render that aſſiſtance, as thoſe who are well acquainted with the ſtructure of the human frame.

Our author ſays, the Court of Examiners have hitherto conſtituted a tribunal, the deſign of which was, to protect ſociety from ignorance and empiricism, by giving a diplomatic ſanction to men of abilities. How well they have anſwered the deſign of their inſtitution, may be collected from what he ſubjoins, viz. that the army, navy, and empire at large, have been inundated and overwhelmed with impudent pretenders.

The latter part of this aſſertion, the exiſtence of *impudent pretenders*, is too true to be contradicted. The *Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow* contains intrinſic evidence of the exiſtence of ſuch a character; and the truth of it is corroborated by the united voice of our commanders, of the public at large, and of the Court of Examiners themſelves. I will not add, that it is alſo confirmed by the petition of the *Delegates*; but leave it to my adverſary, to appeal to that reſpectable authority.

Our author informs us, that the authority of the Court of Examiners was too limited to be effectual. This might have been true, with regard to all but army and navy ſurgeons. All navy ſurgeons have been examined by them from time immemorial, and all army ſurgeons for about fifty years paſt; as the framers of the late

bill

bill confeſs, and even boaſt, in their defence of that bill, ſent round to the houſe of every Peer. In that paper they aſſert, that they have for many years examined all ſurgeons and mates for the army and navy; and, they hope, with advantage to the public, and credit to themſelves. Perhaps they meant to ſay, with advantage to themſelves: that it has not been with advantage to the public, the united voices of all men cry aloud.

In order to recommend their bill to the Legiſlature, at its firſt introduction, they had recourſe to the pitiful expedient of a falſe allegation, and pretended they had examined ſurgeons and mates for the army, navy, and other foreign ſervice, gratis. The fact is, that, like father Paul, they do not immediately touch the money; but it is put into the aggregate fund, from whence every Examiner draws a fee every day of examination, beſides a good dinner. Such are the diſintereſted ſervices rendered to the public by the Court of Examiners; and ſuch their peace-offering, to reconcile the Legiſlature to the Surgeons' bill!

But we are informed by this author, that the power of that Court was too limited to be effectual. I ſuppoſe he means, effectual for making them Nabobs. That it was effectual enough to enable them to do a vaſt deal of miſchief, his pub-

lication bears ample teſtimony; ſince it ſhows, that, for the ſake of ſelf-intereſt, they had deluged the army, navy, and the whole empire, with deſpicable pretenders. Perhaps he means, they had not *the power* to refuſe the qualification fee: in other reſpects it is to be lamented, that the Legiſlature did not ſooner ſet limits to their power, or they to their inordinate avarice and ambition.

Beſides other advantages accruing to the Examiners, directly or indirectly, for granting diplomas and qualifications, five or ſix guineas were paid by every ſurgeon and mate examined at extra courts; which urgent ſervice frequently rendered neceſſary. This ſum was divided among the Examiners; ſo that each Examiner has been known to receive ſeven or eight guineas a day for his ſhare. Whether they conſidered this tender as a bribe, or not, it is difficult to determine: it is certain, however, they always *pocketted the affront*.

If the deſign of the inſtitution of the Court of Examiners was, to protect ſociety from ignorance and empiriciſm, it is rather ſurpriſing they ſhould not diſcover, in leſs than fifty years, that they are not armed by the late act of Parliament with any power to prevent all the quacks in the kingdom from murdering his Majeſty's liege

ſubjects

ſubjects as faſt as they can. It is true, an old charter gave that power; but then it was ordained, that the members of the Corporation ſhould be examined before the Biſhop of London, by certain perſons deſcribed in that charter:—a proviſion which the Examiners themſelves have not complied with; a proviſion rendered obſolete by diſuſe, and ſuperſeded by the late act. If, however, our author's aſſertions, their own aſſertions, and the aſſertions of all the world, are true, ſome Biſhop, or at leaſt ſome man of honour and conſcience, ought to preſide over their examinations, in order to prevent the public from being any longer impoſed on.

Our author tells us, that the neceſſity for ſome reform, in this reſpect, is too apparent to be contradicted; and, indeed, this aſſertion is ſo true, and his proofs are ſo ſtrong, that I ſhudder while I repeat them. But although there is too much truth in the relation, he has overcharged the picture; he has neglected to make the proper exceptions.

Speaking of the army and navy, How, ſays he, has the ſervice been ſupplied with mates? (under which term he ſeems to include ſurgeons alſo.) "How has the ſervice been ſupplied with "mates?—From the hoſpitals of Great Britain, "the proper ſeminaries of chirurgical know-

" ledge? No!—From the private abodes or " domeſtic tuition of reſpectable ſurgeons? " No!—How then have they originated? Why, " from the ſhops of apothecaries! diſcarded ap- " prentices, and uneducated porters! But a far " greater number of them, needy adventurers " from the North! — Scotch graduates, that " never ſaw a diſſection, or even handled a " knife! Precious fellows to be entruſted with " lopping off legs and arms in a battle!"

The education of theſe Scotch graduates, he tells us, is this: " They come to town as ig- " norant and as *ruſticated, (riſum teneatis?)* as " peaſants. They walk an hoſpital, if they can " afford it, for three months, during which time " they acquire a little technical phraſeology; " and with this ſuperficial inſtruction, they ſally " forth as mates, to diſtribute life and death to " the miſerable victims of war." Are theſe things ſo? If they are, what a reproach to the Court of Examiners, who, by certifying their ability, give theſe *deſtroying angels* their commiſſion! for no ſurgeon is employed in the public ſervice till his abilities are certified by the Court of Examiners!

" It is," he adds, " a notorious truth, that at " ſea they amputate like the barbarians of Abyſ- " ſinia; only with this difference, that they uſe " a knife inſtead of a hatchet. For the truth of

" *this,*

" *this*, I appeal to the teſtimony of all the naval " officers, and to the petition *of the Delegates!* " Good God!" he adds, " are the lives of his " Majeſty's ſeamen, the *invulnerable* bulwarks " and main palladium of our ſtrength, to be " idly ſacrificed, to pleaſe a junto, or pamper " the ſpleen of a faction?" I anſwer, No: they ought neither to be ſacrificed to pleaſe a ſelf-elected junto, who undergo *no teſt of ability*, nor to pamper the luxury of a Court of Examiners, at their *new Banqueting Houſe in Lincoln's Inn Fields.*

But it has been ſaid, How are the army and navy to be ſupplied with ſurgeons in time of war? I anſwer, By encouraging the cultivation of the ſcience in time of peace. For no man can be ſo ſtupid as to imagine, that when war is proclaimed at Charing Croſs, a multitude of able ſurgeons will ſpring up at Surgeons' Hall like muſhrooms. It ought to be remarked, that ſurgeons and mates are not ſent to Surgeons' Hall, as paupers to a magiſtrate, to be *paſſed*, but to be *examined*; a circumſtance which the Court of Examiners will do well in future to remember.

It appears, however, that if the Examiners have not ſufficient power to promote the proper education of the army and navy ſurgeons, they have

have ſufficient power to prevent it; and have exerciſed that power with ſucceſs. Having, from their engagements, as hoſpital ſurgeons and Examiners, and the prejudice entertained by the public in favour of thoſe who fill ſuch offices, no leiſure for the extenſive practice of phyſic or pharmacy, they endeavour to diſparage thoſe who have more opportunity and more ability; leſt they alſo ſhould reap advantage from their ſituations, and prevent the elect from drawing all the beſt practice into their vortex. What rational motive can a young ſurgeon have, to cultivate the ſtudy of pharmacy or of phyſic, when perhaps his knowledge muſt again be laid by, like an old man of war, after the next campaign; or he will be rendered for ever incapable of attaining the higheſt honours in his profeſſion! If the preſent plan of the Court of Examiners be tolerated, Government muſt employ a phyſician as well as a ſurgeon, in every ſhip, and in every regiment; or be anſwerable for all the dreadful conſequences that ſhall enſue.

If thoſe who are ſent to Surgeons' Hall for examination are not qualified, the Examiners ſhould not, for the ſake of ſordid lucre, certify that they are, and thereby impoſe on Government, and ſign the *death-warrants* of our brave ſoldiers and ſeamen. But we are told by this author, that our ſeamen are an *invulnerable* bulwark. Perhaps he

he means *impregnable:* but it is to be hoped he will add a dictionary to the next edition of his work, as a clue to guide us through the labyrinth of his absurdities. If our gallant seamen are really invulnerable, the expense of examinations at Surgeons' Hall, and of surgeons to cut and slash them, and lop off their legs, is unnecessary. But, alas! the records of Greenwich Hospital, and even the records of our naval victories, tell another tale!

It is the fashion to extol our sailors and overlook our soldiers, as of little or no consequence; and our author follows the fashion. This partiality is pregnant with ingratitude and injustice; and arises from a predilection for our invincible bulwark, and an antipathy to continental wars. Whether this predilection and this antipathy are well founded or not, is a question for statesmen to decide; but can neither augment nor diminish the merit of the seaman or of the soldier, who have an equal claim on our gratitude, and equally deserve all the assistance which their country can afford, to alleviate the hardships of war.

Nor ought those surgeons who expose themselves to the danger of pestilential disease, and acquit themselves with credit in the service of their country, to be forgotten. After sharing the calamities and suffering the miseries of war,

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in order to eſtabliſh their fame, and obtain an honourable aſylum in their native land, ſhall they be diſappointed at their return? Shall they be refuſed an aſylum, earned by their labours, merited by their ſervices, and guarantied to them by Parliament? Shall they, when they anchor on their native ſhore, be told that the Court of Examiners, who thought them fit to practiſe when *inexperienced*, are doubtful whether they are fit to practiſe when *experienced*? Shall they be told, that men living in eaſe and affluence, are afraid of encroachments on their practice? that the Court of Examiners are troubled with ſcruples of conſcience; that they feel compunction and remorſe, for having let looſe ſuch a ſet of ruffians to butcher our brave men? that their reſt is diſturbed and their ſlumbers are broken by dreadful dreams, and the frightful apparitions of our murdered ſeamen; and that nothing can quiet their conſcience and allay their fears, but *an additional fee of twenty-eight pounds?*

What if our ſurgeon ſhould have imbibed a little of the ſpirit of a Britiſh tar, and ſhould diſdain to ſubmit to an unjuſt exaction, even though ſanctioned by act of Parliament? What if he were to be rejected by the Examiners, through ſpleen or jealouſy? or if he were ſhipwrecked and loſt his property, or ſquandered it in an improvident manner, as ſeamen ſquander

their

their own property, and the Examiners and Court of Aſſiſtants of the Surgeons' Company ſquander the property of others, and had not ſufficient left to pay the fees? In either of theſe caſes, the Surgeons' bill would, as our author truly aſſerts, provide for him *a final and laſting recompenſe*, and a domeſtic ſettlement; a ſettlement *in a workhouſe!*

Will it, continues our author, be any extenuation of our guiltineſs, either in the preſent or ſucceeding ages, that we have been prevented from doing an act of humanity, becauſe it was repugnant to the principles of your Lordſhip? Here again he pretends, that Lord Thurlow has prevented them from acquiring or exerciſing the power of examining ſurgeons for the public ſervice; a pretence which he knows to be utterly void of foundation, and which again proves that he is no deſcendant of the *Evangeliſt*.

After inſinuating that Government cares leſs for a man than for a horſe, and ſacrifices the lives of our wounded men to ſave the expenſe of their maintenance, for which purpoſe the ſurgeons whom he deſcribes are admirably qualified, all of whom are examined and approved of at the Hall; he again begins defaming Lord Thurlow, whom he compares to the black ſerpent of India, which is ſaid to contain within

his head an antidote for his own poiſon. Our author himſelf is like the viper, whoſe fat is an antidote for his venom; and, like the viper, he has been ſo unlucky as to *bite a file*.

He complains that Lord Thurlow does not ſhow ſufficient reſpect to ſurgeons, and exclaims with Satan,

"Not to know us argues yourſelves unknown."

He ſhould have ſaid yourſelf, or rather thyſelf. The noble Lord whom he calumniates, has no title to the plural character of duplicity; he leaves that for his Dreſſer and Co. who bring in a bill for their own aggrandiſement, and pretend it is for the public good.

Lord Thurlow declared, that, whatever his opinion of ſurgeons was before, he entertained leſs reſpect for them on account of the late bill brought in by the author of the *Dreſſing* and his aſſociates. If any thing can increaſe his contempt for the profeſſors of the art, this vile Grub-ſtreet attack, this expoſure of the principles of the late bill, muſt increaſe it.

After acquainting us that the Court of Examiners have hitherto conſtituted the tribunal for the examination of ſurgeons, and that an ignorant, untutored

untutored banditti of mohawk ſurgeons have been let looſe to mangle and mutilate our brave tars, he laments that Lord Thurlow has prevented him and his aſſociates from doing an act of humanity; that is, extorting more money from the diſtributors of death in our army and navy. If he and his colleagues have not hitherto done an act of humanity, they were not prevented by Lord Thurlow, or any other Lord, but by their own ſordid propenſities, which could not reſiſt the temptation of *getting rich by degrees.*

He affirms, that if a potentate in any diſtant, but poliſhed empire, ſhould read Lord Thurlow's harangue, he would conclude, either that the Engliſh were barbarians, or the orator a madman. He adds, that if his Lordſhip is ſo deficient in information, it is neceſſary he ſhould be told, that ſurgery has been highly cultivated in this country; and that the *Engliſh* ſurgeons have been reſpectable *ever ſince the inſtitution of the French academy.* The Engliſh, he ſays, prone to adopt, and beſt calculated to improve it, ſeized the embryon, nurſed it with induſtry, and have brought it near to perfection. Such, he ſays, has been our chirurgical fame, that the ſovereigns of Europe ſend their ſurgeons to us for education; and that at the aſſembly of allies on the continent, the German, Hanoverian, and Pruſſian ſoldiers, had eminent ſurgeons, in-

ſtructed at Engliſh ſeminaries, while the brave Britiſh were ſuffering perpetual martyrdom from the defect of ſcience in their countrymen. The truth of this ſtatement let the Examiners controvert, by whoſe certificate of qualification thoſe barbarians, whom he deſcribes, are recommended to Government for making martyrs of our ſoldiery, and exerciſing the knife inſtead of the tomahawk.

It will be aſtoniſhing, after this, if Lord Thurlow ſhould perſiſt in his opinion that ſurgeons, as a body, are not reſpectable: nay, it will be rank hereſy. He ought to be flayed alive, and a lecture ſhould be given on him at Surgeons' Hall. But, alas! they have no theatre! One of the volumes belonging to that learned ſociety ſhould be bound up in his ſkin; but, alas! they have no library!

It is happy for England, that foreigners exalt her chirurgical fame, ſince her own conduct and her own public inſtitution tend to degrade it. Our author has given two proofs that ſurgery is on a reſpectable footing in *England*. Firſt, an academy of ſurgery is inſtituted in *France*; and, ſecondly, the *Pruſſians* have better ſurgeons in their armies than the *Engliſh*: a third proof, full as good as the others, might be adduced, viz.

viz. the Auſtrians have lately improved the ſword-exerciſe.

If ſurgery is become reſpectable in England, it is not owing to the ſpirit of monopoly in the Corporation, but to the ingenuity of individuals. The moſt important improvement made of late, or perhaps ever made, in that profeſſion, is that of healing by the firſt intention in the greater operations, and particularly in the flap operation for the leg; an improvement which preſerves the uſe of the joint of the knee. This was diſcovered and practiſed at Liverpool, Mancheſter, &c. and afterwards introduced into this metropolis, not by examining ſurgeons, but by *ſtudents in bell-metal mortars*.

It was owing to the diſgraceful conduct of ſome of the practitioners of ſurgery, that the ſcience itſelf did not appear reſpectable in the eyes of Lord Thurlow. That learned Lord felt a juſt indignation at the clandeſtine and indecent manner in which the bill was brought into Parliament; the groſs miſrepreſentations by which it was ſupported; the mean manœuvres by which it was hurried on; and the ſcandalous overbearing influence by which it was likely to ſucceed, in oppoſition to the cleareſt evidence of its injuſtice. He was likewiſe offended at the ſhameful conduct of the Examiners, in polluting the reſidence of a reſpectable ſociety of the law with the bodies

of

of malefactors. He was alſo diſpleaſed at the perſonal injury which he had received from an unſkilful ſurgeon; who would not agree to call in another, to do what he was unable to accompliſh himſelf. Incenſed by ſuch provocations, he did not make a ſufficient diſtinction in the heat of debate, between the profeſſors and the profeſſion. His remarks tended to degrade the ſcience of ſurgery, as well as the ſurgeon. He conſidered the practical part, and not the theoretical; the operative part, and not the curative or preventive. That knowledge which qualifies a ſurgeon to deliberate and adviſe, may be called a ſcience; the dexterity and addreſs which he diſplays in manual operations, an art. Whether the ſlanderer of Lord Thurlow be right or wrong, in aſſerting that ſurgery has been highly cultivated in this country, it is certain that it is not, as he avers, brought near to perfection. If it is, what excuſe can the Examiners make, for overwhelming the army and navy with diſcarded apprentices and porters?

When his Lordſhip has coolly and impartially conſidered the ſubject, I think it impoſſible that he ſhould not acknowledge a ſcience, on which ſo great a ſhare of human happineſs in every rank of life depends, worthy of every reſpect and encouragement. But this concluſion can only be granted, on condition that neither an

extent or variety of talents ſhould be an excluſion, nor partial intereſts or modes of election ſuffered to prevail. While ſuch mockery of juſtice is allowed, neither the College of *invalids* at Chelſea, nor the College of *old women at Bromley*, will want *a rival.*

But we are told by our intelligent author, that Lord Thurlow's information is ſuperficial, and that it is ſurpriſing he can ſo ſoon have forgotten, that the Legiſlature has lately conferred on farriers, what they now refuſe to ſurgeons; and he aſcribes a ſhare of the blame to his Lordſhip; who, he ſays, either by his vote or acquieſcence, ſanctioned that meaſure. Hence he maintains, his Lordſhip ſhows more feeling for a horſe than for a man. But the truth is, that the Veterinary College was not founded by the Legiſlature, but by private perſons. It has been occaſionally ſupported by legiſlative grants, ſuch as an infant inſtitution demands, and an important eſtabliſhment deſerves. It is our author who wiſhes to juſtify the Examiners, who have overwhelmed the whole empire with ignorant pretenders to ſurgery, that ſhows leſs feeling for *a man*, than the ſupporters of the Veterinary College have ſhown for *a horſe.*

Our author gives no account of the number of foreign ſurgeons inſtructed at Engliſh ſeminaries; and

and brings no evidence to ſupport his allegation. It is, in ſhort, too abſurd to deſerve a ſerious refutation: we might as well try to refute the rhodomontade of Gulliver's Travels. It is, however, not improper to remind him, that moſt ſurgeons who go abroad, only travel to finiſh their education; and it by no means follows, that they find better inſtructions abroad that at home. It is the height of impoſition to pretend, that the great maſs of ſurgeons attending the allied armies on the Continent, were educated in England: nor is it an eaſy taſk to convince us, that thoſe German Princes who take ſo much care to procure good ſurgeons, wiſh to deſtroy their wounded men, in order to avoid the expenſe of maintaining them; or that the *Elector of Hanover* is more anxious to provide good ſurgeons for his army, than the *King of Great Britain.*

When we are told by this author, that the ſurgeons who are approved of for our fleets and armies by the Examiners, lop off legs after the Abyſſinian mode, only with a knife inſtead of a hatchet, we can eaſily account how the Examiners have eſtabliſhed their chirurgical fame. It was natural for the ſovereigns of Europe to ſuppoſe, that the Examiners were ſtill more able amputators than their pupils, who had juſt paſſed an examination, and could outdo even what they

they ſaw our younger ſurgeons perform abroad. *Quid domini facient, audent cum talia fures?* Our author's words are theſe: Such, let me tell you, has been our chirurgical fame, that the ſovereigns of Europe, in imitation of the Ruſſian Czar, have ſent their ſurgeons to us for education. When we conſider the merit of their pupils, and the miraculous exploits which they have achieved in every part of the globe, we cannot wonder that their Tutors and Examiners ſhould receive glory from *reflection.* We cannot wonder that their renown is gone forth into all lands, and their names unto the ends of the world.

But whatever may be their chirurgical fame, let me adviſe them to give the public no cauſe to ſuſpect the juſtice of their official conduct; no longer to invade the privileges of the Corporation; no longer to obtain money under falſe pretences; no longer to threaten with heavy fines thoſe whom the law does not prohibit to practiſe; no longer by intimidation to extort upwards of twenty-eight pounds from army and navy ſurgeons, whom the law allows to practiſe. Should they continue ſuch illegal exactions, their fame may be farther extended; *their Honours* may croſs *the line*, or *their Worſhips* may reach *Botany Bay*.

After expatiating on the horrid cruelties exerciſed on our brave ſoldiers and ſeamen, our author adds, "State emergencies, or the calami-"ties of war, might have reconciled us even to "this." Dean Swift obſerves, that it is wonderful with what philoſophy we bear the misfortunes of other people. State emergencies, ſays our author, or the calamities of war, might have reconciled us even to this: but the evil was more extenſive; for theſe men, on the return of peace, thruſt themſelves on the boſom of ſociety, and commit the ſame enormities in domeſtic practice, that they have been accuſtomed to exerciſe on the continent and the ocean. *Aye, there's the rub:* he tells us, that thoſe precious fellows lop the limbs of our brave ſeamen, and butcher them in the moſt horrid manner; yet he could be reconciled to this, and from the ſafe ſhore behold their floating carcaſes, with manly patience and Chriſtian reſignation. But when *peace* comes, he fears they might encroach on his practice; that they might be ſo audacious as to thruſt themſelves on the *boſom* of ſociety; nay, and even *to ſettle in the very heart of the town.* But what has he to fear from ſuch rivals, even if any of them are men of abilities, ſince he informs us, mankind *cannot diſcriminate?* And what have the public to fear from ſurgeons, in whom he aſſures us they will place no confidence?

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If a ſufficient number of competent ſurgeons do not offer themſelves for the public ſervice, that is not the fault of the Examiners; but it is the moſt horrid of all crimes, to let looſe a ſet of deſperadoes, to ſacrifice the lives of our brave defenders, and to deſtroy thoſe whom the ſword has ſpared. If good ſurgeons were wanting, it was the duty of Government to employ the beſt they could procure; but it was the duty of the Court of Examiners to reject the bad; and not, for the ſake of perquiſites, approve and recommend thoſe, whom they afterwards declare unqualified. But thus it will ever be, while human nature is corrupt, if men are ſuffered to have an intereſt in doing wrong.—The Examiners ought to have a fixed ſalary; and a ſum proportioned to their ſalary ſhould be deducted for non-attendance; but they ſhould not be ſuffered to ſell indulgences and diſpenſations, for the ſhedding of innocent blood.

If the aſſertions of the author of the Dreſſing be true, theſe cenſures are not ſevere; but, I believe, he has exaggerated a real grievance. What, then, can give riſe to ſuch a falſe accuſation, and ſuch a foul aſperſion? Self-intereſt.—The ſame ſordid motives, which tempted the Examiners at firſt to admit thoſe ſurgeons, and to certify their qualification, now tempt them to deny it. Firſt they came with an irreſiſtible

argument in their hands; with a metal which ſtrikes its beholders with blindneſs: now they come without that faſcinating oblation. Firſt they came young and inexperienced; but now they come as experienced practitioners, formidable opponents, and rival candidates for fortune and for fame.

From the confident manner in which our Bobadil boaſts of his knowledge and that of his confederates, it might be imagined that all learning is centred in them, and all improvements flow from them. *We*, ſays he, could have diſcriminated genius; *we* could have ſelected it from the common maſs of empiriciſm, and have recommended it to notice. But *mankind* cannot diſcriminate, and therefore will confide only in *men like us*, made eminent by ſucceſsful practice, and ſanctioned by general approbation. Alas! by his own account, mankind have confided in them to their coſt! They, who, it ſeems, are not a part of mankind, but a ſuperior order of beings, have an excluſive faculty of diſcriminating genius, and power of recommending it to notice. Theſe endowments have diſplayed themſelves in a ſingular manner during the preſent war; in which the geniuſes diſcriminated and recommended by them have, according to our author, inflicted perpetual martyrdom on our brave ſoldiers and ſailors; and ſallied forth, like ſo many dæmons,

dæmons, to diſtribute death to the miſerable victims of war. *Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee.* If our author's account is accurate, and his picture not overcharged, the Examiners need not care whether the ſovereigns of Europe have heard of their chirurgical fame or not, ſince they will have ſuch a *noble army of martyrs* to praiſe them.

But in order that their chirurgical and medical fame may proceed *paſſibus æquis*, and ſtand an equal chance of being tranſmitted to poſterity, and an equal chance of attaining immortality, I will inſert a preſcription, which I have juſt been favoured with by a medical friend of great diſcrimination, written by one of that learned corps;—a preſcription of a compoſition which may juſtly be called a catholicon, both becauſe it is as likely to cure one diſeaſe as another, and becauſe the publication of it may be of univerſal advantage to mankind. To render it the more extenſively uſeful, I ſhall publiſh it in Engliſh. Take of conſerve of orange-peel ſix drachms, cinnabar of antimony, gum guaiacum, and powder of valerian, of each two drachms and a half, milk of ſulphur, and powder of tin, of each three drachms, diuretic ſalt, and powder of ginger, of each one drachm, camphor (diſſolved in ſpirit), fifteen grains, ſyrup of ginger as much as is ſufficient to make an electuary. Any panegyric on

the author of this preſcription would be uſeleſs. Suffice it to ſay,

Cedite Romani doctores, cedite Graii,
Neſcio quid majus naſcitur Hippocrate.

I myſelf have known the following mixture directed for an inflammatory fever, by one of the ſame learned body:—Take of ſalt of wormwood one drachm, lemon-juice a ſufficient quantity, water four ounces, ſyrup two drachms, *ſpirit of nutmegs two ounces*.—Not to compliment the author of the above incomparable preſcription with a diſtich, would argue inſenſibility of extraordinary merit.

Namque ad ſupremum perducta ſcientia culmen,
In te ſtat, nec quo progrediatur habet.

Aided by ſuch allies, Death has enlarged her bounds; and Empiriciſm rides triumphantly in his gilded car.—Barbers and ſurgeons have diſſolved partnerſhip; and ſurgeons and undertakers have formed a coalition. Such are the members of the tribunal that examines our medical men for the army and navy; the ſovereigns of Europe will hear of their fame, and our *enemies* will pray for their *long life* and *proſperity*.

As to the *par nobile fratrum*, thoſe twin ſtars who ſhine with ſuch unrivalled luſtre, I muſt com-

compliment them in conjunction with one couplet at parting:

> Fortunati ambo! ſi quid mea carmina poſſunt,
> Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet ævo.

It is known to moſt ſurgeons, that the preſent Examiners have neither been the firſt to make improvements in the practice of ſurgery, nor the firſt to adopt them; neither have they been remarkable for electing men of merit. John Hunter himſelf never was choſen an Examiner; and notwithſtanding a ſneer thrown out in a daily paper againſt dentiſts, could he have obtained a ſeat in that court, he would have had no objection to meet his old friend Mr. Spence there. Dr. Hunter, who was likewiſe a member of the Corporation, if he had lived till this time, would have been excluded from that ſituation, by an illiberal and invidious bye-law. Several of the firſt ſurgeons, anatomiſts, and medical characters of the preſent age, labour under the ſame unnatural diſability, that of knowing *too much*; an inſuperable bar to a ſeat in that *learned ſociety*.

I have heard of ſome ſurgeons, who thanked God they knew nothing of phyſic: I was glad to hear that they thanked God for any thing: their heads, I preſume, are ſo overcharged with

ſurgery,

ſurgery, that any congenial auxiliar art would only be deemed an intruder.—I have heard of others, friends and ſupporters of the late iniquitous bill, who pride themſelves on account of their not practiſing pharmacy: theſe gentlemen boaſt of having *clean hands*; which is a lucky circumſtance, as they have lately been doing a vaſt deal of *dirty work*.

The very attempt to bereave the Corporation of their privileges and property, and army and navy ſurgeons of their ſtipulated rewards, by an *ex poſt facto* law, and to ſanction robbery by act of Parliament, was *a black act*. The author of *The Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow* affects great concern for the welfare of the public, and looks forward to the arrival of peace with horror, on account of the crew of unſkilful ſurgeons who will then ſeek for a domeſtic ſettlement. Were his apprehenſions real, it would only prove him to be deſtitute of common ſenſe; for it is certainly much ſafer to truſt an ignorant ſurgeon on ſhore, where he can call in able practitioners in conſultation, than on board a ſhip, where he cannot always have other aſſiſtance, and in a battle, where mature judgment and prompt deciſion are neceſſary.

Our author is offended with Lord Thurlow, for deſcanting with ſome acrimony on the humble

ble origin of the Corporation of Surgeons, and obſerves, that the Nile itſelf is collected from ſingle rivulets.—His own ill-begotten performance reminds us of the *headleſs trunks* and unſhapely monſters found on its banks.—He affirms, that a barber muſt, in the nature of things, be an unchangeable and unimprovable animal. If ſo, our author, who is a great *block*-head, would have been *quite the barber:* he would have been a *peruke maker to a hair.* The ſovereigns of the Barbers' Company would have heard of his tonſorial fame, and his name would have reſounded *from pole to pole.*

He informs Lord Thurlow, that beſides anatomy and phyſiology,—chemiſtry, pharmacy, and botany, form a part of the education of ſurgeons. This proves, that ſome of the offſpring of the Barbers' Company may ſtill boaſt of their original characteriſtics. They are unchangeable and unimprovable animals. *Naturam expellas furca, tamen uſque recurret.*—After loading ſtudents in bell-metal mortars with the moſt illiberal ſarcaſms, and trying to diſparage them by the moſt inſolent reproaches, he tells us, that *he himſelf is a ſtudent in bell metal mortars!* How unfortunate it is, that the art of memory did not alſo make a part of his education; or that he did not avail himſelf of his botanical knowledge, and take ſome hellebore *to purge his brain!* But,

alas! the greateſt phyſicians are not always able to cure themſelves: *Nec domino proſunt quæ proſunt omnibus artes!*

If this author has ſtudied pharmacy, he diſgraces his profeſſion. But what ſhall we ſay to thoſe, who exclude men for practiſing what it is their duty to ſtudy; and for practiſing openly and honeſtly, what they clandeſtinely practiſe themſelves? If hoſpital ſurgeons have not time to ſtudy or practiſe, to any conſiderable extent, the united branches of phyſic and ſurgery, is there any reaſon, why they ſhould compel thoſe who have more time and more ability to forego that advantage, and deprive the public of their ſervice? Is it reaſonable, or prudent, to require the army or navy ſurgeon, to treaſure up all the knowledge he can cull from education and experience, and then to rob the public and himſelf of the fruit of all his labours? Is it politic to decree, that he ſhould ſuffer his medical and pharmaceutical talents to ruſt in time of peace; or elſe that he ſhould be prohibited from riſing to rank in the Corporation; and examining the candidates for an office, which he himſelf has already diſcharged with honour?

Our author talks about Alexander the Great, Lord Thurlow, and rolls of parchment.—A roll of parchment may be converted into an engine

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of deſtruction, either by the ſoldier or the lawyer; either in the ſhape of a *deed* or of a *drum*. Theſe are pernicious to the preſent generation; but let it be converted into an act of Parliament, called *A Surgeons' Bill*, to quench the flame of ſcience, and to ſanctify plunder and oppreſſion, and it becomes a curſe to all poſterity.—Our author tells Lord Thurlow, that thoſe who read Hippocrates, will be ſurpriſed at not finding him among his diſeaſes. The author and his friends will find a great reſemblance of him in the diſeaſe called *the plague*; for to them he certainly is ſuch. But the profound phyſician even there contemplates the ſalutary deſign of nature; and admires the powerful inſtrument ſhe employs, to expel ſomething noxious from the body. That inſtrument is a type of the generous ardour diſplayed by the noble Peer, when he expelled that noxious venom called The Surgeons' Bill from the Houſe of Lords, and from all civilized ſociety.

Our author alleges, that if the members of his community had been bred lawyers, they might have been able to cajole a jury.—That a lawyer of talents ſhould ſometimes attempt to cajole a jury, is not at all ſurpriſing; but it is really ſurpriſing, that a man who wants that advantage, ſhould attempt to cajole *the oracles*

of law; to cajole *Lord Thurlow himſelf*, and *the whole Parliament of Great Britain.*

He tells us of a lawyer, who, when blindfolded, happened undeſignedly to worſhip the devil: but he does not tell us of any one, who was ſo *wicked* as to worſhip him with his eyes open; or ſo *fooliſh* as to prepare *Birch for his own back.*

He ſays, If we cannot arouſe you by policy, let us awaken you by a ſenſe of moral propriety. By this he appears not to underſtand, that *honeſty is the beſt policy.*—Had he learnt this uſeful maxim, it might have preſerved his cauſe from expoſure; his abilities from deriſion; and himſelf from contempt.

Our author tells Lord Thurlow, he is not ſo vain as to think, that his letter will make any impreſſion on a mind like his Lordſhip's; yet he tries to awaken him by a *ſenſe of moral propriety.* Of *our author's ſenſe* it is eaſy to form an eſtimate, from his voluntarily ſubmitting to the taſk of *labour in-vain.*

Weak indeed, and groſsly depraved, muſt a mind be, that can receive any impreſſion, but that of ſcorn, from ſuch a letter.—How far a ſenſe of moral propriety ſhould reconcile any

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one to the principles of the Surgeons' Bill, the public may judge, from peruſing the following Petition of a majority of the Corporation, preſented to the Houſe of Lords.

The HUMBLE PETITION of the Petitioning Members of the Corporation of Surgeons of London, on behalf of themſelves, and other Members of the ſaid Corporation,

SHEWETH,

THAT there is now a bill depending in the Houſe of Lords, entitled, "A Bill for erecting "the Corporation of Surgeons of London into a "College; and for continuing and confirming "to ſuch College certain rights, privileges, and "immunities;"—by which it appears, that certain perſons, nineteen in number, (eleven of whom are the petitioners for the ſaid bill,) being the preſent Maſter, Wardens, and a part of the Court of Aſſiſtants of the ſaid Company of Surgeons, together with two other perſons, to be named by the ſaid nineteen, are to have the abſolute ſuperviſal and control of all the concerns of the ſaid College, during the term of their reſpective lives; and to have veſted excluſively

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in them all the lands, tenements, monies, ſtocks, and revenues, and other effects, belonging to your petitioners, and other members of the ſaid Corporation of Surgeons; and alſo to have the unlimited power of making bye-laws for the government of the ſaid Corporation.

That the commonalty of the ſaid Corporation, of which your petitioners are a part, are the proprietors of all the lands, tenements, monies, ſtocks, revenues, and other effects of the ſaid Corporation; and which cannot lawfully be alienated from them but by their own conſent in a general court of the ſaid commonalty.

That, according to the ancient conſtitution of the Barbers, as granted and eſtabliſhed by charter of the firſt of his late Majeſty King Edward the Fourth, the governors of the ſaid Corporation were choſen by and out of the commonalty of the ſaid Corporation; and the ſaid governors, and the ſaid commonalty, were empowered to make ſtatutes and ordinances for the good government of the ſame.

That, by an act of the 32d of King Henry the Eighth, which incorporated the Barbers and Surgeons, theſe privileges were confirmed; and one of the reaſons aſſigned by the ſaid act for the ſaid incorporation was, that the ſaid Surgeons might

might often aſſemble together for the good and due order, exerciſe, and knowledge in the ſcience or faculty of ſurgery.

That a charter was granted by his late Majeſty King James the Firſt, to the ſaid Corporation of Barbers and Surgeons, conſtituting four governors and twenty-four aſſiſtants; the governors to be elected annually by and out of the ſaid aſſiſtants, who were appointed for life.

That the ſaid governors and aſſiſtants were empowered to make good and reaſonable bye-laws for the government of the ſaid commonalty.

That, by an act paſſed in the eighteenth year of the reign of King George the Second, the Corporation of Barbers and Surgeons was divided into ſeparate corporations.

That the ſaid act likewiſe appointed a maſter, two wardens, ten examiners, and twenty-one aſſiſtants, of the Corporation of Surgeons; the ſaid maſter and wardens to be annually elected by and out of the ſaid aſſiſtants, who, as well as the ſaid examiners, were appointed for life.

That the ſaid act empowered the ſaid maſter and wardens, or any two of them, with nine or more of the ſaid aſſiſtants, to make, ordain, revoke,

voke, or abrogate, from time to time, ſuch bye-laws, ordinances, rules, and conſtitutions, as to them ſhould ſeem requiſite, profitable, and convenient, for the regulation, government, and advantage of the ſaid Company or Corporation. —But it did not empower them to uſe the revenues of the ſaid Corporation otherwiſe than for the advantage of the ſame; or to alienate its property, or to impoſe annual contributions on its members, without the conſent of the commonalty in general court aſſembled.

That the ſaid act did not empower the ſaid maſter, wardens, and aſſiſtants, to take away from the ſaid commonalty the right of meeting in general court on important occaſions; but, on the contrary, it confirmed to them all the rights and privileges granted and confirmed to the Barbers, or Barbers and Surgeons, by all preceding charters.

That the right of the commonalty to meet, or be convened, upon important occaſions, is a right inherent in the ſaid commonalty, under the ſaid charters; and has been repeatedly exerciſed, as well ſince the ſaid charter of King James the Firſt, as ſince the ſaid act of the 18th of King George the Second; and the ſame is recogniſed by the preſent bye-laws, which were made in con-

conſequence of, and under the authority of the laſt-recited act.

That the ſaid petitioners (originally eleven in number) for the bill now depending before your Lordſhips, being the Maſter, Wardens, and part of the Court of Aſſiſtants aforeſaid, did petition the Honourable the Houſe of Commons, as well as your Lordſhips, for the ſaid bill, without convening your petitioners, or any part of the ſaid commonalty of the ſaid Corporation, or giving the leaſt notification, in any manner or form whatſoever, to your petitioners, or any part of the ſaid commonalty, that ſuch a meaſure was in contemplation, or ſuch a bill ſolicited: and the ſaid bill had actually paſſed through the Honourable the Houſe of Commons, and had been twice read in this Right Honourable Houſe, and afterwards committed, and was ready to be reported, before your petitioners knew or heard of the clauſes or contents of the ſaid bill.

That your petitioners, being 178 in number, on hearing of the ſame, humbly petitioned your Lordſhips, that the ſaid bill might not paſs into a law; when your Lordſhips were pleaſed to order the ſaid bill to be re-committed.

That evidence was produced before the Right

Honourable Committee, to whom the ſaid bill was ſo referred.

That it appears, from the ſaid evidence, that the ſaid Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants, have alienated the property of the commonalty aforeſaid, to a large amount, without their knowledge or conſent.

That they have, as alſo appears from the ſaid evidence, made purchaſes, of a very improvident nature, of freehold property, and greatly beyond the extent allowed by law;—ſo much ſo, that the ſaid eſtate cannot be held by the ſaid Corporation, but ſtands now in the name of truſtees: and ſtock in the funds, to the amount of 9,000*l.* and upwards, was ſold out at 58*l.* *per cent.* which coſt the ſaid Corporation, upon an average, 76*l.* *per cent.* in order to make ſuch purchaſe.

That it further appears by the ſame evidence, and is eſpecially confirmed by a minute, or proteſt, entered upon the records of the ſaid Corporation, by John Gunning, Eſq. the then Maſter of the ſaid Corporation, that groſs mal-adminiſtration did then, and had, for ſome time previous thereto, prevailed in the affairs of the ſaid Corporation.—That large and unneceſſary ſums were expended on dinners for the Court of Aſſiſtants.—That the ſaid Court had raiſed their

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own former fees, and added others thereto.—That their accounts were not duly audited.—That their library was without books, and their theatres without lectures.—That they had neither inſtituted lectures in ſurgery or anatomy of any importance, although certain legacies or bequeſts had been profeſſedly appropriated for that purpoſe.—That they had held out no reward to riſing merit; and that the futile attempts which they had made towards the promotion of the ſaid ſciences, although found in the end to be totally inadequate and ineffectual, had yet been ſhamefully expenſive.

That it further appears, by evidence, that the Maſter, Wardens, and Court of Aſſiſtants have, ſince the paſſing the ſaid act of the 18th of George the Second, received, in fees, quarterages, and by other means, 80,000*l.* and upwards, although, during that period, they do not appear to have taken any one material ſtep for the public good, or for the advancement of the ſcience of ſurgery.

That it further appears, that the ſaid Examiners have, during the ſaid period, received for their own private uſe 16,000*l.* and upwards, although the petitioners for the bill, in their petition, ſtate themſelves to have examined all perſons offering themſelves as candidates for ſur-

geons or ſurgeons' mates in his Majeſty's ſervice, and the Eaſt India Company's ſervice, without any recompenſe whatever.

That it appears in evidence, that few, if any, of the abuſes ſo complained of, (though near ſeven years have elapſed ſince the recording of the ſaid minute or proteſt,) have been remedied or attempted to be remedied.

That it is apparent, as well from the ſaid evidence, as from certain reſolutions of the ſaid Corporation which have been eraſed, interlined, and altered, ſubſequent to the paſſing of the ſame, that the real object of the ſaid bill is to obtain, from the Legiſlature, an act of indemnification for certain informal and illegal proceedings, although it profeſſes only to have in view the better regulation of the practice of ſurgery.

That the ſaid bill, if paſſed into a law, will operate moſt injuriouſly to your petitioners, and the reſt of the ſaid commonalty of the ſaid Company of Surgeons, in the following, among other particulars, viz.

It gives to the ſame identical perſons, (but under different titles and denominations,) whoſe mal-adminiſtration of their preſent powers has been thus fully proved, abſolute ſuperviſal and control over your petitioners, and their affairs

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and intereſts as members of the ſaid Corporation. It annihilates all their preſent privileges, and takes from the commonalty their ancient right of meeting in a general court, however urgent or important the occaſion may be. It veſts in the ſame perſons, (ſubject to no control or inquiry on the part of the commonalty,) all the lands, tenements, rents and revenues, monies and ſtocks, of the ſaid Corporation. It gives to the ſaid perſons, power to chooſe, in future, a lecturer from their own body, with a ſuitable ſtipend, although, according to the preſent laws of the ſaid Corporation, the lecturer, or lecturers, are to be choſen from the members of the Corporation at large. It obliges your petitioners ſolemnly to ſwear to the obſervance of ſuch laws and ordinances as may be enacted by the ſaid perſons, however obnoxious, unjuſt, and impolitic they may be, although the ſaid commonalty are to have no voice in the ſaid laws, or choice in the appointment of thoſe who make them.

As the ſaid bill now ſtands, it will operate as a ratification, or legalization, of certain alienations, purchaſes, and other acts, made and done by the ſaid perſons, injurious to your petitioners, and the ſaid Corporation, and, (as they are adviſed,) contrary to the law of the land. It ratifies, and confirms indiſcriminately, all the preſent

ſent bye-laws of the ſaid Corporation, although the ſaid bye-laws are not ſet out in the ſaid bill, and ſome of them contain diſtinctions between different branches of ſurgery, and prohibitions reſpecting the ſame, as illegal, (as your petitioners are adviſed,) in their foundation, as they are odious in their principle, and unjuſt in their operation.

That your petitioners humbly apprehend the ſaid bill to be as defective in public policy, as it is pregnant with private injury.

That changing the titles of the Maſter, Wardens, and Court of Aſſiſtants, which are mere municipal diſtinctions, into others, importing collegiate rank, and to which no eminence of ſkill, diligence, or talents, can elevate the members of the Corporation at large, muſt not only check and deſtroy that emulation, upon which perfection in all ſcience depends; but expoſes the members at large to diſgraceful compariſons, diſhonourable and derogatory to the feelings of any body of learned and enlightened men.

That thoſe who are to ſucceed the ſaid perſons in the ranks and diſtinctions alluded to, namely, the Preſident, Vice-Preſidents, Cenſors, and Counſellors, are not called upon for any teſtimonial of ability, any public proof of their ſkill

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and learning, or emulative conteſt of ſuperior talent, with the reſt of the members of the ſaid College, previous to their election, but are merely to be nominated by their predeceſſors, as intereſt or connexion may incline.

That the ſaid bill does not provide for any regular ſyſtem of improvement in the ſcience of ſurgery, or hold out any ſpecies of encouragement or reward to riſing merit; the lectures provided for in the ſaid bill, being but few in number, and at an improper ſeaſon of the year.

That, notwithſtanding the evidence before alluded to, has proved the preſent revenues of the Corporation to be ſufficiently ample, and equal to every fair and honourable purpoſe, being 2,000*l.* and upwards *per annum*, the preſent bill ſeeks to enlarge the juriſdiction of the petitioners for the bill, from ſeven to ten miles round London, for no other reaſon, as your petitioners can diſcover, but to ſwell the ſaid revenues, by impoſing an expenſe of near 30*l.* for a grand diploma, upon every perſon practiſing ſurgery in any degree whatever, within the ſaid diſtance of ten miles, however humble the practitioner, or obſcure the village in which he may reſide; and by increaſing the fine for ſo practiſing, without having obtained the ſaid diploma, from five to ten pounds.

That your petitioners, having nothing more at heart, than the promotion of the honour of a profeſſion, with which their own perſonal characters are ſo immediately identified, and anxious that ſome well-digeſted, and regulated ſyſtems, ſhould be eſtabliſhed, for a purpoſe ſo beneficial to the public, have repeatedly requeſted of the petitioners for the bill, that a deputation from your petitioners might wait on them for that purpoſe; but ſuch their applications have not even been favoured with an anſwer.

That if your Lordſhips ſhould think it expedient to interpoſe, by giving a new conſtitution to the ſurgeons, your petitioners entreat, from the wiſdom and juſtice of your Lordſhips, ſuch ſalutary proviſions, as may preſerve them from the prejudicial conſequences reſulting from the ſaid bill; and create that emulative impulſe to learning and ſkill, which it muſt neceſſarily deſtroy; and open to the profeſſion at large, the poſſibility, proſpect, and hope, of accompliſhing the true ends of a liberal inſtitution, and of participating in thoſe profeſſional honours and diſtinctions, which the petitioners for this bill ſeek excluſively for themſelves, at the expenſe of that community, over whom they were appointed the guardians and protectors.

And your petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

THUS it appears, that the property *ſtill* belongs to the members of the Corporation at large. The privileges of electing, and of being eligible, to all offices, *did* belong to them. The firſt was taken from them by *an act of Parliament*; the ſecond, by *an act of the Legiſlature in the purlieus of Newgate.*

Then, as well as now, Parliament was impoſed on: then, by the ſpecious and plauſible pretence of a bill, to ſeparate the Surgeons from the Barbers' Company; now, by the pretence, equally ſpecious and plauſible, of a bill to erect the Corporation of Surgeons into a College. The aggrandiſement of ſurgery,—this is the honied word that covers that deadly poiſon—*Deſpotiſm*; this is the rouge that adorns that hideous harlot —*Extortion*; this is the gilded pill, to make that bitter draught, *the Surgeons' Bill*, go down.

When the governors of the Surgeons' Company apply to Parliament for *new powers*, it is incumbent on them, at leaſt, to point out *one power* already granted to them, which they have not abuſed. For applying to Parliament for an act, to erect the Corporation of Surgeons into a College, they may plead the example of the learned ſocieties of Edinburgh and Dublin; for excluding medical ſcience from their council,

they may plead the example of the *bird of wiſdom*, commonly called an *owl*; who ſhuts his eyes againſt the light.

By that obnoxious bye-law, ſeveral ſurgeons to the Royal Family, who have profeſſedly practiſed pharmacy, are excluded; others, who have practiſed it in a more clandeſtine manner, have been admitted into the number of the elect, and ſome have continued to practiſe it. This affected contempt of the knowledge of drugs has not reached the higher orders of ſociety;—it is a vapour confined to *low grounds*. The laſt ſurgeons advanced to the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain, and to the rank of Serjeant Surgeon, and of Surgeon in Extraordinary to his Majeſty, were all practitioners of pharmacy. Surely Parliament will not ſanction a bye-law, to exclude ſuch perſons from office; or, at leaſt, to caſt a ſtigma on their reputations; nor conſent to degrade "the man, whom the King delighteth to "honour."

One diſtinguiſhed character alluded to, is not a member of the Corporation; but was entitled to ſettle and practiſe, as an army ſurgeon. Him they tried to compel to enter into their Company; but he refuſed to accept of that honour *on compulſion*; or to pay them his guineas

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on compulſion, though to him guineas were "as "plenty as blackberries."

When the Legiſlature of the Surgeons' Company paſſed an act, that every ſurgeon advanced to the dignity of a Serjeant Surgeon, ſhould be elected an Examiner, and Maſter of the Company, perhaps they did not conſult either the honour or intereſt of the Company; as it is poſſible ſome future Lord Chamberlain, in whoſe department the appointment is ſaid to be, may follow the example of Caligula, and appoint his horſe; or another animal, more celebrated for his *length of ears* than for his *wiſdom*.

The Legiſlators of the Corporation were rather too obſequious, in their zeal to ſhow their gratitude to the Court Surgeons, for their aſſiſtance and influence in procuring the Surgeons' bill of that day; a bill which enabled them in future to elect themſelves. This was a moſt abſurd and unjuſt proviſion: for if they were the moſt ſelect Surgeons of the Corporation, and the beſt judges of merit, nothing could more inconteſtably prove the propriety of continuing the privilege of election in the Corporation at large, and the flagrant injuſtice of robbing them of that right.

When the law-makers of the Corporation enacted a law to exclude thoſe who practiſe pharmacy from office, they were altogether as faſtidious. On a late occaſion, theſe two laws have been found to claſh, and have brought the Maſter, Wardens, and Court of Aſſiſtants, into a diſagreeable dilemma. It is difficult to determine whether they ſhowed more juriſ*im*prudence when they reſolved to admit, or when they reſolved to exclude; when they were too ſhy, or when they were too civil by half; when they were too ready to give the fraternal embrace, or when they were too ready to refuſe it. Be that as it will, it was not an eaſy matter for them to extricate themſelves from the dilemma. Two *ſuch laws*, when joſtling together, reſemble two women of the town, fighting for precedency.

The Serjeant Surgeon at preſent excluded from the ſituation of Examiner, by a degrading and invidious bye-law, would reflect honour on any ſituation: but he is a ſingular inſtance of the caprice of fickle Fortune. She deigned to advance him to honour in the Court of Great Britain, but diſdained to advance him to honour in the Court of Examiners at Surgeons' Hall.

When a Court of Examiners try to caſt a *ſlur* on the character of ſuch a man, they do not diſhouour

honour him; they diſhonour themſelves. Nevertheleſs, this *obſtruction* to the preferment of a Serjeant Surgeon, in Surgeons' Hall, is an *evil* of the firſt magnitude: but there are certain State-doctors who are of opinion that the *evil* may be cured by the royal touch, and the *obſtruction* by taking *penny royal*.

Beſides five or ſix hundred members, who reſide within the limits of the juriſdiction of the Corporation, there are above twelve hundred who have paſſed a ſimilar examination, and are declared by the liſt annually publiſhed by the Court of Aſſiſtants, to be entitled to the ſeveral privileges, franchiſes, and immunities granted by the late act of Parliament to the Surgeons' Company: almoſt all of them practiſe pharmacy. Upon diſcharging the note which they give, as a ſecurity for paying the remaining half of the admiſſion fine, they may receive the grand diploma, and be entitled to the privilege of reſidence, and the full advantage of the late act, and of all the charters of the Corporation. Of courſe, when the rights of the reſident members are invaded, their rights are invaded alſo.

Many of thoſe practitioners, diſperſed through the various cities and towns of Great Britain, and over all parts of the globe, are in no reſpect ſecond to the Examiners, or to any other members

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of the Corporation; but their abilities are confined to a more limited ſphere of action. To many of them ſurgery is indebted for ſome of its principal improvements. An odious and illiberal bye-law, which debars ſuch men from the proſpect of preferment and eminence, if they think proper to ſettle in the metropolis, is like the baneful yew; it caſts a malignant ſhade, and withers all around it. It raiſes the miſt of prejudice, damps the ardour of emulation, blaſts the hopes of ſucceſs, and nips the bloſſoms of genius in the bud. It ſuſpends animation, like the exhalations of the poiſon-tree; and extinguiſhes the lamp of ſcience like mephitic air.

It has been ſuggeſted by a very eminent profeſſor of the obſtetric art, that as midwifery and pharmacy are ſo generally practiſed by ſurgeons, a certain number of practitioners ſhould be elected to form two committees, for examining ſuch ſurgeons as offer themſelves for the practice of thoſe branches of the medical profeſſion, and granting diplomas to ſuch as are found competent. This hint comes from a practitioner, ſo diſtinguiſhed for profeſſional talents and extenſive information, that it deſerves the moſt ſerious attention.

Among the numerous inſtances of the capricious and arbitrary diſpoſition of the Court of

Examiners, it ought not to paſs unnoticed, that they extended the clauſe of excluſion from their court to midwifery, from a pique againſt an individual; an hoſpital ſurgeon, and a man of unexceptionable abilities. By a like partial and tyrannical deciſion, they have excluded a *Wathen*, an excellent ſurgeon, and the firſt oculiſt of this age and nation. Perhaps it is not to their intereſt to render ſuch tranſcendent merit ſtill more conſpicuous, or to make the public *more ſharp-ſighted!*

Latet anguis in herbâ! Jealouſy has no ſmall ſhare in ſuch tranſactions. If the chief object of their aim were the public good, a Cruikſhank would not have been declared ineligible; a Hunter would not have been kept in the back-ground; a Cline would not be condemned to waſte the flower of his profeſſional life in a Court of Aſſiſtants; the talents of an Abernethy would be brought forward in their bloom; and certain members of the Court, whoſe abilities, either through age or natural infirmities, are as dormant as the powers of the Corporation over which they preſide, would lengthen the liſt of *yellow admirals*, and "*retire to their ſavin fields, to cul-*
"*tivate cabbages.*"

In regard to refuſing the honours and diſtinctions of office, to a ſurgeon who devotes himſelf principally

principally to one branch of his profeſſion, it appears to me impolitic, illiberal, and unjuſt, provided he excels in that branch, and in the ſum of ſurgical knowledge. It is impolitic, becauſe no diſcouragement or degradation ought to attend the ardent purſuits of a man, likely to improve his profeſſion. It is illiberal, becauſe every man ſhould be at liberty to practiſe thoſe branches of ſurgery for which he deems himſelf beſt qualified, and by which he thinks he can render the moſt eſſential ſervice to the community. It is unjuſt, becauſe it caſts an impediment in the way of a practitioner; and hinders him from following, without diſadvantage, the courſe which nature, and inclination, and the bent of his genius, point out.

As no man excels in all things, and as it is deſirable to have every ſpecies of profeſſional excellence in that Court, would it not be prudent to imitate the example of Phidias, and ſelect from every quarter, talents the moſt exquiſite in their kind? Thus, by frequent converſation, and mutual information, reciprocal improvement would take place; and general advantage to the profeſſion, and to the public, be the final reſult.

If there be any branch of the medical profeſſion, which, in the eyes of the Court of Examiners,

ers, may appear incongruous with the rank of an Examiner, whether it be pharmacy, or the practice of a dentiſt, oculiſt, auriſt, or lithotomiſt, or the cure of the lues venerea, or the operation for the fiſtula, or the cure of any of the various ills that fleſh is heir to, let ſuch incongruity, and ſuch incompatibility with the character of an Examiner, be declared at once, either by an act of Parliament, or by an unalterable reſolution of the Court of Examiners of the Corporation, or Council of the College. If the dignity of the Court or Council be the prime object, it will be ſufficiently conſulted by paſſing a law, to prohibit ſuch practices from the time of election to office: but let it not be an unſettled point, liable to perpetual variation, according to the whim or intereſt of the rulers of the Company.

Such has been their conduct hitherto, ſuch the miſmanagement of the affairs of the Corporation, and ſo little has the intereſt of the members in general been conſidered, that I have been aſked by many of them, if I could inform them what privileges they enjoyed, and what advantage they derived from belonging to the Corporation. Some remarked, that they knew of no privileges belonging to the members at large, but the privileges of paying fines, and ſerving troubleſome offices, while they are excluded from thoſe which are lucrative. Such were not the leaſt

ready to join in oppoſing an augmentation of power, in thoſe who had ſo much abuſed what they poſſeſſed; knowing that they had nothing but new impoſitions and new oppreſſions to expect; and more to fear from their jealouſy than to hope from their favour.

It is well known that ſurgery is greatly improved of late years, and much more cultivated than before. For this we are indebted to the Monroes and the Hunters, as well as to the many able profeſſors of anatomy and ſurgery of the preſent day; moſt of whom, as well as of their pupils, are declared ineligible to the Court of Examiners. Thus they are rather degraded than honoured, by belonging to ſuch an inſtitution; and it is well known that the greater part of the members entered into the Company, not from any hopes of receiving benefits from being members of the Corporation, but from a dread of vexatious proſecutions.

It is alſo well known, that quacks of all denominations have long been ſuffered to practiſe with impunity. For their attempt to impoſe ſome reſtraint on ſuch impoſtors and ſcourgers of the human race, the authors of the Surgeons' bill deſerve the thanks of the public. *Si ſic fuiſſent omnia!*

If the boaſted ſpecifics of our quacks are ſuch as is pretended, a few thouſands applied to the purchaſe of them would be as well expended, as the millions laviſhed in ſlaughtering the human ſpecies.

" To ſave is greater far than to deſtroy."

If the boaſted ſpecifics are ſuch, it is, at leaſt, impolitic and inhumane to lay an impoſt on them; and to take away one comfort from the wretched, or to add one thorn to the bed of ſickneſs.

But while we applaud the conduct of the framers of the bill in regard to irregulars, we can find no apology for their treatment of thoſe whom their own diploma ſtamps as regulars. If they are perſons whoſe want of abilities can reflect any diſgrace on the ſociety, at the time of admiſſion, their admiſſion reflects a greater diſgrace on thoſe, who, from mercenary motives, admit them. In that caſe the public, who are the victims of the banditti let looſe upon them, can never repay their obligation. If they are properly qualified at their admiſſion to become members, nothing but ſelf-intereſt and a ſpirit of monopoly, both of honours and emolument, both of office and practice, can prompt the Examiners, the moment after they have taken their

 money,

money, to inſult them with a book of bye-laws, which informs them, that unleſs they confine themſelves to ſurgery alone, and ſtarve, the moſt indefatigable attention, and greateſt exertion of talents, ſhall never raiſe them one ſtep higher; but that they ſhall rather be *degraded* by entering into the Corporation.

Such a manœuvre can never be juſtified, even if it could be proved by an Examiner, that he poſſeſſes the *ſenſorium commune* of the whole Corporation; that the rays of all learning are concentrated in the focus of his pericranium; and that the ſun of ſcience only ſhines, to illumine the hemiſphere of his brain.

It has been rumoured, that the opponents of the late bill oppoſed the erection of the Corporation into a College. If it is meant that they oppoſed the eſtabliſhment of a College of deſpots, it is true; if it is meant that they oppoſed the eſtabliſhment of a College of Surgeons, on a liberal foundation, it is falſe. They did not wiſh for Preſidents, who were not the objects of their choice, and had given no proofs of deſerving it: they did not wiſh for *Cenſors* who deſerve *cenſure*: they did not wiſh for *ſelf-elected Counſellors*, veſted with arbitrary power, in a *multitude* of whom there could be *no ſafety*.

Had

Had there been the leaſt intention of oppoſing the aggrandiſement of the Corporation, and its erection into a College, the oppoſition would have commenced, when the deſign of ſoliciting new honours was firſt announced in the public prints, or during the progreſs of the bill, in its three ſtages in the Houſe of Commons, or its two firſt ſtages in the Houſe of Lords; but the members of the Corporation at large, were ſo far from ſeeking for an occaſion of oppoſition, that while they are accuſed by their oppreſſors of unneceſſary reſiſtance, and of being too forward in their interference, I have heard them blamed by more than one diſtinguiſhed member of the Legiſlature, for being ſo ſupine, and for ſuffering ſuch an infamous bill to remain ſo long unoppoſed. Had the members of the Corporation thought it poſſible that ſuch a bill could be propoſed to a Britiſh Parliament, and that it could be diſguiſed under ſuch a ſpecious cover, or had the members of the Legiſlature underſtood the rights of the Corporation as well as they do now, this neglect would not have happened.

The members of the Corporation, to a man, as far as I have heard their opinions, condemn the governors of the Corporation for their improvident ſale, and their improvident purchaſe; and, had they been litigious, had they been ſevere to puniſh their faults, would have brought

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an action againſt them for dilapidation. Had they been eager to reſiſt every encroachment on their privileges, they would not have let the favourable opportunity ſlip, when their ſtewards carried a bill into Parliament without their conſent, to obtain indemnification for diſpoſing of their property without their conſent, and for infringing the law of the land. For a part of the governors of a Corporation to bring in any bill, relative to the Corporation, without convening a general meeting, or even giving notice to its members of ſuch a meaſure, is, as far as I know, an unparalleled proceeding, and a moſt indecent attempt. The authors of ſuch a meaſure talk of an unbecoming oppoſition, with an ill grace.

Had the members of the Corporation at large, entertained an idea of reſiſting the proper authority of their governors, they would have begun their operations earlier, and not have waited till the framers of the bill were entrenched in their camp, and fortified by redoubts; till they had ſtrengthened their intereſt by a perſonal canvaſs, and general ſolicitations of ſupport. As to the title of College, it was ſo far, in itſelf, from being an objection to the bill, that it rather ſoothed the vanity of the members of the Corporation, lulled their ſuſpicion, and charmed to reſt the dragon that guarded the Heſperian fruit.

Well

Well might every member of the Corporation be alarmed, who was capable of comprehending the bill, and not prepared to ſacrifice the rights of the Corporation, the public intereſt, and his own real private intereſt, to ſome apparent private intereſt, the hopes of patronage, the hopes of preſcriptions, or the hopes of a dinner. Perhaps I ought to except from the folly of ſacrificing their own real private intereſt, thoſe who would wiſh to exclude the practitioners of midwifery and pharmacy, whether of ſuperior merit or not, in order that they themſelves may have the greater chance of ſucceeding to preferment. If the bill ſhould paſs, *theſe will have their reward.*

Well might every member of the Corporation be alarmed, when, inſtead of paying no taxes but with their own conſent, a bill was pending in Parliament, to grant an unlimited power of taxing them, to perſons in whoſe election they had no vote. Well might they be alarmed, when all their property was to be alienated, all their rights annihilated; and an oath to be taken, on admiſſion into the College, which no Engliſhman, who deſerves the name, would ſwallow, and no Turkiſh baſhaw would impoſe.

Such a bill, ſo repugnant to the mild and equitable ſyſtem of our laws, and ſo deſtitute of every

every principle of juſtice, could never have met with ſupporters, if it had not been congenial to the domineering ſpirit of certain tyrannical chief-prieſts, and if the Devil had not got into *Eden*.

When the friends of the bill pretend, that the former tax on the members of the Society, under the denomination of quarterage, was deemed an object by the members of the Corporation, they are not deceived themſelves, but they endeavour to deceive others, and are aſhamed to confeſs the truth. Had that been thought worthy of objection, it would have been objected to before the bill was brought forward, and before the amount of the tax was reduced. But in the late bill, proviſion was made for allowing an unlimited power of taxation to perſons not choſen by the Corporation; a power never granted to thoſe who were formerly choſen by them, and in whoſe integrity they placed confidence.

Among the taxes impoſed by their managers on the Corporation, the late alienations of their houſe, and part of their ſtock, are not the leaſt. The ſtock was ſold at more than twenty per cent. leſs than the price at which it was purchaſed: and as to the houſe, commonly called Surgeons' Hall, or the Surgeons' Theatre, in the Old Bailey, they had neglected to repair it ſo much, that although it appears a good edifice,

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and far from old, it was like to tumble about their ears. They are not fond of any *ſuch muſic*, and do not wiſh to be concerned in any *ſuch dilapidations*. They choſe rather to become the managers of a *ſtrolling company*, and bought a new Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, which has an avenue leading from Portugal Street; a ſpot formerly celebrated for theatrical performances. This may be called *the New Playhouſe in Portugal Street.*

It has been the opinion of ſome people, that the farce of *The Devil on Two Sticks*, ſo often acted at the late Theatre in the Old Bailey, *for the benefit of the Managers*, will be laid aſide; and a total change of performances take place. But unleſs the *auri ſacra fames, et amor ſceleratus habendi*, which blazed like the late comet in the Surgeons' bill, when paſſing the fiery ordeal, and its perihelion in the Houſe of Lords, and with its baleful influence portended ruin, ſhould keep up the parallel, and, like that comet, ſuddenly diſappear, and the managers be confined to a fixed ſalary,—there is no reaſon to ſuppoſe, that ſo *lucrative* a performance will be laid aſide.

This play, which expoſes to ridicule the character of Doctor Laſt, is a favourite one with the *audience:* for as they are apt to *take meaſure* of others by themſelves, and as few of them under-

ſtand more than one art, they think it preſumption in any man to pretend to underſtand more. In the laſt act, the candidate pays his fees, and is admitted; but this is rather a take-in; for he is ſtrictly enjoined to *ſtick to his laſt*, and endeavour to earn his living by manual operation, and by working with his own tools, as other handicrafts and mechanics do. He is required to renounce the practice of phyſic and pharmacy, and to conſider them as a mere *drug*, under pain of the diſpleaſure of the Court of Examiners.

At the ſame time he is informed, for his conſolation, that if he will *ſtick to his laſt*, and live in his ſtall, where he will be *likely to ſtarve*, and not *tread on the heels of the Examiners*, whenever a vacancy happens in their Court, either by the death or reſignation of an Examiner, they may poſſibly allow him to ſtep into the *old ſhoes*.

As to the *old ſhoes of the Corporation*, it is ſuppoſed by ſome of the beſt judges, that, like the Hall where they uſed to tread, they are *paſt mending!* But to return to Doctor Laſt; if he continues to *practiſe phyſic*, he forfeits the favour of the Examiners; if he *ſticks to his laſt*, he can ſeldom *get his bread:* but that is *no bread and butter of theirs.*

Many

Many a time has the Doctor been tempted to tranſgreſs, and to forfeit all pretenſions to their favour; but ſometimes he has concealed his tranſgreſſions. He has certainly ſome excuſe for trying to get his bread in another way; for he declares, that while he ſtuck to his laſt, and only *practiſed* his own branch of buſineſs, he had *nothing to do:* but there is no excuſe for his dabbling in phyſic, unleſs he underſtands it. In ſuch a ſcience, "A little learning is a dan-"g'rous thing;" and there is great reaſon to fear, that many ſuch doctors have *very little learning indeed.*

One of the beſt entertainments ever ſeen at the late Theatre, is *a good dinner.* This, as well as the former, is too good a thing to be laid aſide. In this entertainment, which may be conſidered as a kind of carouſal, it is unneceſſary to ſay there is *good acting*, when the *managers* are the *ſole performers*; it is unneceſſary to ſay there is *good muſic*, when the Company *pays the piper.*

In this entertainment, matters are in general ſo managed, that every performer plays his part well. Copious libations to good-fellowſhip ſerve as interludes; and the entertainment concludes with a ſacrifice to Bacchus. Then comes an after-piece called *Examination.* This is a mere *farce.*

Happy would it be, did it not ſometimes occaſion a *tragical cataſtrophe!*

When they excluded practitioners of pharmacy from a ſeat in the Court of Examiners, they preſented a comedy, called *Falſe Delicacy*. When they raiſed men, whoſe talents could never have raiſed them, they performed the *Alchymiſt*, and turned *lead* and *braſs* into *ſilver* and *gold*.

When they carried a bill into Parliament, to rob the Corporation of their franchiſes, they compelled every member of the Company, who was not prepared to ſacrifice the rights of the Corporation, either at their ſhrine, or at the ſhrine of ſelf-intereſt, to act the part of *The Buſy-Body*. They have made the Legiſlature repreſent *She Would and ſhe Would not*; becauſe they themſelves would not repreſent *Things as they Are*.

Should I continue any longer to hold up to the managers of the Company, the dramatic mirror, and introduce low comedy and farce, in order that they may ſee themſelves *velut in ſpeculo*, I ſhall be accuſed by ſome readers of making *Much ado about Nothing*. Such a charge I already anticipate from the prejudiced and ſelf-intereſted; but theſe remarks were not written to pleaſe them. Such as they are, they are intended to ſerve the cauſe of juſtice; and to promote the

true

true intereſt of the Corporation of Surgeons, and of the public.

Truth can never dread inquiry, nor ſhrink from diſcuſſion. Had not the ſupporters of the Surgeons' bill caſt aſide her impenetrable ſhield, the ſhafts of their adverſaries would recoil. They would not *feel ſore*, and writhe with pain: "*Let the gall'd jade wince.*" Had they been guided by truth, they would not have lurked in ambuſh; nor have ſhunned the ſtrength of their opponents in the open field. Where ſhe directs the way,

"The ſwords wave harmleſs, and the flames retire."

Happy would it be for them, if they would even now learn this leſſon, and know the things that belong to their peace. Happy would it be for them, if they would at length diſcontinue their miſrepreſentations, and caſt off their diſguiſe. Expoſed in all their artifices, and baffled in all their attempts; convicted of meditating deſpotiſm, but not convinced of its impracticability, they ſtill contrive new plots, and lay new ſnares, to make the Corporation their prey.

With this deſign they circulate a report, that the bill is intended to add dignity to the Corporation,

ration, and to prevent empirics from entering into it in future, as they have hitherto done. Yet it is well known, that the degree of examination was before unlimited, and their power of admiſſion diſcretionary; and that no augmentation of ſuch powers is, or can be, conferred on them by the ſaid bill, if it ſhould paſs into a law. It is alſo well known, that one of the moſt notorious quacks in the kingdom is a member of the Company; that he was admitted by the Court of Examiners for the ſake of lucre; and that no meaſure has been propoſed by them, in their bye-laws, or bill, either to exclude him, or to prevent every quack in the univerſe from entering into the Company, and continuing his ravages; provided he will *pay them their fees*. As quarterage is aboliſhed, one temptation is removed; and ſuch members may poſſibly be excluded from the Company. Hitherto they have been ſuffered to advertiſe their noſtrums in every newſpaper, and in every ſtinking corner: while they paid their quarterage, the managers of the Corporation pocketted the affront.

I have been aſtoniſhed at the indifference with which many members of the Company regard this bill. *Sero ſapiunt Phryges.* Allured by promiſes of preſent or future favour, they little ſuſpect the thraldom that is preparing for them.

Beſides other intolerable impoſitions, an oath was ordained by that bill, to be taken by the members of the Corporation, by which if their tyrants commanded them to be ſodomites, they muſt diſobey them and deſerve *the pillory*; or obey them, and deſerve *the gallows*.

Yet there are many members of the Corporation, who call the ſupporting of ſuch a ſyſtem, *ſupporting the dignity of the Corporation*. They would ſupport the dignity of the Corporation much more, by ſupporting *their own dignity*, and *the dignity of human nature*.

Is it becoming a free man, is it becoming a Briton, is it becoming a man, to fall proſtrate on the ground; to humble yourſelves in the duſt; and to beg of your enemies to do you the honour to tread on your necks; to trample you under foot; and to triumph over you? Such abject humiliation can only proceed from an apprehenſion entertained by thoſe perſons, that an exalted ſituation would merely ſerve to expoſe their defects; and from a conſciouſneſs, that when a collegiate inſtitution is founded, they are not qualified to become the poliſhed pillars and Corinthian capitals of the Society, but ſhall ſtill be accounted *the baſe*. It ought, however, to be noticed, that they who feel no emulation to excel, and to be diſtinguiſhed, in the glorious

career

career of ſcience, betray a grovelling ſpirit, and a culpable indifference to the welfare of mankind.—*O proni in terras animi, et celeſtium inanes!*

Among the numerous inſtances of diſregard ſhown to the rights of the Corporation by ſome of its members, any farther than as their own intereſts are concerned, the following ought not to be paſſed over in ſilence. One of them was heard to ſay, that he did not care two-pence for the rights of the Corporation, ſo long as the grievances relative to himſelf, as a military ſurgeon, were redreſſed. This has been called *The Age of Reaſon*; it ought to be called *The Age of Self-intereſt*. The petitioners againſt the late bill, who aſſerted the rights of military ſurgeons, as ſtrenuouſly as they aſſerted their own, had a right to expect a better return.

The ſame gentleman makes an apology for practiſing pharmacy: which is, that ſome families would not let him attend them at all, on any other terms. The ſame apology may be pleaded by others. He practiſes pharmacy for his intereſt; they for theirs. Happy would it be for the public, if the ſame condition were more generally inſiſted on. I know a young man of great promiſe, who thinks the practice of pharmacy as honourable as any branch of the medical

medical profeſſion, and has had a regular education in that branch, who has been ſeduced by the allurements of becoming an Examiner, and of arriving at eminence by the ſhorteſt road. He has determined to deprive the public of his pharmaceutical and obſtetrical acquiſitions, and to lay thoſe talents up in a napkin, in hopes of being anointed with the oil of gladneſs, and raiſed above his fellows, as an Examiner. This proves that the character of an Examiner, however reſpectable the perſon may be who appears in it, is *an impoſing character.*

While ſuch men, who have had regular educations, and are qualified to prove ornaments to the profeſſion, in whatever ſphere they think proper to move, forego the practice of pharmacy for the ſake of diſtant proſpects, the public are in a great meaſure deprived of the fruits of their medical attainments, and are too much left a prey to quacks and pretenders of every deſcription. They are conſigned over to ſhoemakers and coblers; to hawkers and pedlars; to the porters of apothecaries, and the ſervants of hoſpitals; to the pounders of horſe-balls, the refuſe of a drug-ſhop, and the dregs of mankind. They are devoted as victims, to men, who, by their exploits, deſerve *a diploma for manſlaughter*, and *a patent for diſpenſing poiſon.*

This is toleration with a vengeance! It is a national reproach, and a ſcandal to this enlightened age. If any thing can be more ſtrange than the exiſtence of ſuch an abuſe, in a civilized country, it is the patience with which the public endure it.

——— Pudet hæc opprobria nobis
Et dici potuiſſe, et non potuiſſe refelli.

I ſhall not follow the example of the ſupporters of the Surgeons' bill, nor conceal the defects either of the preſent ſyſtem, or of that propoſed by them; humbly apprehending, that the honour and intereſt of the profeſſion are beſt conſulted, not by concealing abuſes, but by correcting them. I therefore take the liberty to ſuggeſt, that no quack, no advertiſer or vender of any noſtrum, ſhall be eligible to the Corporation or College of Surgeons; and that when any member becomes a quack, he ſhall forfeit his diploma.

It muſt appear incredible to the world, that the ſum of eight and twenty pounds could induce a Court of Examiners to admit ſuch a character; or the ſum of ten ſhillings a year could reconcile them to continue to keep him in their Company.

——— Quid non mortalia pectora cogis,
Auri ſacra fames?

The

The diſgrace of aſſociating with ſuch characters, or of being claſſed in the ſame liſt with them, and hung up in the ſhops of half the ſurgeons and apothecaries within the bills of mortality, would have been ſufficient to rouſe the indignation of the Governors of the Corporation, if the real dignity of the profeſſion were the chief end of the Surgeons' bill.

If half the frauds and impoſitions, practiſed by thoſe empirics, were to be deſcribed, more books would be written than are contained in that ſecond Alexandrian library, at Surgeons' Hall. Suffice it to mention one,

——————— et crimine ab uno
Diſce omnes.

A gentleman who was favoured by a perſon of that deſcription with a place in his pleaſure-boat, on an aquatic excurſion, was willing to return the compliment. Accordingly he produced a compoſition, beginning with " Alexander Mac-" kenzie, my coachman," which has probably yielded an hundred times more than Paradiſe Loſt, to the fortunate proprietor of the veſſel, who is a member of the Corporation of Surgeons. Few perſons have made a greater figure in the world, than this ſame " Alexander Mackenzie, " my coachman." It may therefore be worth while to aſcertain his origin; otherwiſe more

places might contend for the honour of his birth, than ever contended for that of Homer.

It might be contended for by every corner, and every lamp-poſt, decorated with a hand-bill; and by every dirty lane and fœtid alley, where hand-bills are diſtributed. It might be contended, that he ſprung from the Gazette, or from the True Briton; from the Morning Poſt, or from the Evening Poſt; from the Herald, or from the Courier; from the Morning Chronicle, or from the Evening Chronicle; from the Morning Star, or from the Evening Star. It might be contended, that, like Phaëton, he was the deſcendant of the Sun; and that Leake's pills, acting the part of the river Po, extinguiſhed the flames of his burning chariot, and prevented him from ſetting the world on fire. It might be contended, that he was an offspring of Gratitude; or *an offspring of the brain*, like Minerva: but the moſt learned mythologiſts and genealogiſts are unanimouſly of opinion, that as Venus aroſe from the watery element, and emerged from the ſea, her votary had a ſimilar origin, and ſprung from the Thames.

It is ridiculous to talk of ſupporting the dignity of any ſociety, unleſs its inſtitutes are founded on the baſis of public utility. It is abſurd to talk of the ſuperſtructure of dignity, before its found-

ations are laid. What ideas of dignity muſt thoſe men have, who can reſpect an inſtitution, where the Directors are ſelf-elected; where taxation is without repreſentation, and expenditure without control?

This abſolute dominion over the whole property of the Corporation, without reſponſibility, propoſed by the modeſt artificers of the late bill, ſtaggered the boldeſt of their champions, who was troubled with ſcruples of conſcience, *when he deſpaired of carrying his point.* Not ſo the prime conductor of the bill, whom Lord Thurlow ſo emphatically deſcribed under the character of "the importunate ſolicitor, who obſtructed the "avenues of the Houſe of Lords by his daily at-"tendance; and nauſeated their Lordſhips with "his inceſſant applications." He perſevered; not conſidering, that the members of the Legiſlature might not think themſelves bound to ſupport a meaſure, which they had pledged themſelves to ſupport, in conſequence of miſrepreſentation.

It will not redound much to the honour of the framers of the bill, that, provided they can ſucceed in their undertaking, they care little by what means they may accompliſh their deſign.

Flectere ſi nequeunt ſuperos, Acheronta movebunt.

But

But their conduct will occaſion the leſs ſurpriſe, when we recollect, how certain ſacred characters expreſſed all the rage of diſappointment, when the ſcheme was like to be defeated by a ſucceſsful oppoſition. *Tantæne animis cœleſtibus iræ?*

Surely what gave riſe to the virulent abuſe vomited forth by a certain chief prieſt, was a venial error. It was that of ſuppoſing the managers of the Surgeons' Company good economiſts. The author of the paper which called forth ſuch a torrent of abuſe, did not recollect, when he wrote it, that the ſtewards of the Corporation were more fond of a good dinner than good economy; and conſequently were not likely to have amaſſed any conſiderable ſum for the benefit of the Corporation.

It was juſtly obſerved by the counſel for the majority of the Corporation, that if, with a revenue ſo far exceeding the neceſſary expenditure, a large ſum was not ſaved by the managers of the affairs of the Corporation, it was the more to their ſhame. The character of the gentleman calumniated by that high prieſt, was as reſpectable as his own. That high prieſt, therefore, did not conſult the dignity of Parliament, nor *ſupport the intereſt of his order*, when he called loyal ſubjects democrats; and pronounced a paper to

be

be full of falſehoods, becauſe it contained one miſtake.

It was a little raſh in the author of that paper, to ſuppoſe that the ſtock of the Corporation was huſbanded well; or even that they had any ſtock at all remaining, when he had not been allowed acceſs to their books, although he was a joint-proprietor of the paſt ſtock. The endeavouring to depreciate the veracity of an opponent of the bill, on account of a miſtake, and branding the paper as containing nothing but falſehoods, was an illiberal attempt to bias Parliament and the public. It was unmanly in the right reverend Prelate, to give a gentleman the lie, in a place where he could not be called to account; and where, if he called loyal ſubjects democrats, and told one himſelf, he might plead *privilege of Parliament*.

It is the misfortune of the preſent age, that in the ſuperior ſtations of the church, they cannot always ſee ſuperior ſanctity. Whether this ariſes from a defect in the objects, or in their optics, I do not preſume to determine. Certain it is, that elevation to the higheſt ſtations of the church is no proof of piety. When the Devil aſcended to the pinnacle of the temple, he was no ornament of the church; he was the Devil ſtill.

We

We know where it is written, "Ye ſhall not "imitate the heathen, and lord it over your "brethren." All men are brethren; the petty-tyrants of the Corporation have no right to lord it over them; and he who enables them to tyrannize, is one of their tyrants: *Qui facit per alium, facit per ſe.*

But, thank Heaven, we are not fallen on ſuch evil days, but that we have ſtill ſenators endowed with virtue ſufficient, to teach both temporal and ſpiritual pride a leſſon they never thought of learning—to ſuffer *mortification*, and bear *a croſs*.

How much reaſon had the friends of ſcience, the friends of juſtice, and the friends of the chartered privileges and inalienable rights of mankind to fear, from the black fiends that darkened their horizon, ſo numerous were thoſe bad angels ſeen, until the ſun of Thurlow aroſe. *Afflavit Thurlow, et diſſipantur.*

With regard to the pecuniary affairs of the Corporation, though but a ſecondary conſideration, there is ſomething at which reaſon revolts, in leaving them to the management of any, but perſons elected by the proprietors. But how abhorrent from vulgar underſtandings is a ſyſtem, where expenditure is not only in the firſt inſtance ſubject to no control, but ultimately liable

to

to no inveſtigation, except by auditors elected by themſelves!

It has been aſſerted, that there has been no miſapplication of the revenues of the Company. The ſtate of their funds, and Mr. Gunning's minute, bear ample teſtimony to the contrary; and prove that the groſſeſt miſmanagement, and moſt prodigal expenditure have prevailed. The petitioners themſelves aſſert, that no complaint has been made againſt them for their conduct previous to the introduction of the bill. This aſſertion is likewiſe ill-founded. The commanders of our fleets and the Lords of the Admiralty, have complained of their granting licences to unqualified pretenders; army and navy ſurgeons have complained of extortion, and menaces of vexatious proſecutions; and the members of the Corporation at large have complained of oppreſſion, unjuſt excluſions, and unjuſt prejudices excited againſt them. In ſhort, they have complained, and ſtill complain, that they know of no advantage accruing to them from belonging to the Corporation.

The petitioners for the bill, in a circular letter, expreſs a hope, that they have executed the taſk of examining ſurgeons for the army and navy with credit to themſelves and advantage to the public. This poſtulatum, neither their own

colleague, the author of *The Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow*, nor our naval miniſters or commanders, nor the pillars * of Surgeons' Hall, ſo often loaded with their complains, will admit.

Non Dî, non homines, non conceſſere columnæ.

It has been obſerved, that the library at Surgeons' Hall, which is occupied by the clerk, is deſtitute of books; but it ought to be recorded, for the honour of the Governors of the Corporation, that they generally take care to have *one odd volume* there. Into the cover, or rather the coffer of one of them, they uſed to put all the caſh belonging to the Corporation; forgetting that *riches have wings*. To another they are beholden for a number of interlineations, containing *reſolutions never reſolved on*; but culled from looſe converſations in the Court of Aſſiſtants. From thoſe interlineations they drew ſundry materials for the late bill; juſtly deeming them entitled to equal reſpect with their own reſolutions, paſſed *a quarter of an hour before dinner*.

* Complaints of the total inability of many of the ſurgeons paſſed at the Hall for the navy ſervice, and the orders of the Lords of the Admiralty to the Court of Examiners, in conſequence of thoſe complaints, uſed to be ſtuck up on the pillars in Surgeons' Hall.

I have

I have heard it aſſerted, that the conſtitution of the Surgeons' Company is ſimilar to that of the Worſhipful Company of Tallow Chandlers: but I know not in what the ſimilarity conſiſts, unleſs it be, that the Court of Aſſiſtants of the Surgeons' Company *melt down* the eſtates of the Company like kitchen-ſtuff; and care not *a ruſh* for the members of the Corporation, after they have touched their money; not allowing them to be eſteemed as *make-weights*, but only as *odds and ends*.

Poſſibly it may be ſuſpected, from Mr. Gunning's report, as well as from general report, that the Governors of the Surgeons' Company were rather too fond of *dipping* their hands into the purſe of the Corporation, to get money for their dinners; or a ſimilarity may have occurred from their *boiling* with anger, on their late diſappointment. Be that as it will, it is fortunate they ſhare a ſimilar fate; and that their evil deeds are *come to light*.

It has been propoſed by ſome, that the offices of the Corporation ſhould be held by ſeniority. This is a good method of chooſing old women for an alms-houſe: but ſuperannuates are not the beſt props to ſupport the dignity of a college. To borrow a metaphor from a profeſſion before alluded to, it is not a time for men to enter on

office, when life begins to glimmer in the ſocket.

It has been propoſed, for the Examiners and the Court of Aſſiſtants to be a diſtinct body: which is agreeable to reaſon, and to the act of Parliament; though it may not be agreeable to the wiſhes of the framers of a Corporation. For the able diſcharge of the duties of an Examiner, in which the public intereſt in the Corporation conſiſts, and by which the honour of the Corporation muſt be ſupported, great abilities are requiſite; for ſaving or ſpending a few pounds, ſhillings, and pence, mediocrity of talents may ſuffice.

I can ſee no reaſon why the Court of Aſſiſtants ſhould not be allowed a compenſation for their trouble, as well as the Court of Examiners: but I would aboliſh all dinners at the expenſe of the Corporation; which have too much reſemblance to the feaſts of pariſh officers, and look too much like embezzlement, to be creditable in a learned ſociety.

Should the profeſſional and the pecuniary departments be ſeparated, as is here propoſed, a place in the Court of Aſſiſtants, or among the Auditors, will be no object of ambition; having no tendency to raiſe its poſſeſſor to the rank of

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an Examiner. It will therefore be juſt and politic, to hold out to thoſe who are elected to ſuch offices, a proſpect of reaſonable remuneration. It is not natural, nor agreeable to experience, to expect, that any perſons will be deſirous of bearing the ſcrip, like Judas, unleſs they mean, like Judas, to betray.

The Auditors, or at leaſt half of them, ought to be elected by and from the Corporation. They who would appoint a man to audit his own accounts, and to check his own expenditure, would appoint a wolf to protect the fold, and to guard againſt his own depredations.

Whatever opinion may be entertained of the preſent Examiners and Court of Aſſiſtants, it is not improbable, that at ſome future period the majority of them may be ignorant or corrupt; and that they may elect perſons with qualifications ſimilar to their own: thus a ſyſtem of ignorance or corruption may be perpetuated. If any argument could be neceſſary, in addition to thoſe before offered, to prove the abſurdity of allowing the Examiners and the Court of Aſſiſtants to elect themſelves, this would be ſufficient.

Had ſome ſalutary regulation been provided by the former Surgeons' bill, to check a laviſh

expendi-

expenditure, a Company receiving ſuch vaſt ſums as the Surgeons' Company, would not have been reduced to a ſtate of bankruptcy, as that Company was a few years ago. Had ſome wholeſome reſtraint been impoſed, the annual tax would have been diſcontinued, when the revenues of the Corporation amounted to about two thouſand pounds *per annum*.

It was acknowledged by the counſel for the bill, that if the payment of quarterage were any object to the members of the Corporation, and occaſioned their oppoſition, it ſhould be given up. This confeſſion of its being an *unneceſſary* tax after the vaſt expenſe lately incurred, proves that it was an *unjuſt* one before.

A noble Lord in a diſtinguiſhed ſituation, ſeemed rather to countenance the idea of veſting the property of the Corporation in the petitioners for the bill; by obſerving, that property was in general better managed by a few than by many. But ſurely this is not an argument for veſting a few with the property, though it may be an argument, for veſting them with the management of the property, of the Corporation.

A right of expenditure, free from regular inveſtigation and reſponſibility, denotes a proprietor, not a truſtee. As joint-proprietor, no man can

can have a right to ſpend more than his own ſhare; and when he has ſpent that, he can have no title to the ſtewardſhip.

The late experience of the Corporation has no tendency to confirm the opinion of the noble and learned Lord. A ſelfiſh oligarchy has alienated a large portion of the property of the Corporation; and tried to uſurp, and of courſe to alienate from the Corporation, the remainder; while the great maſs of the members of the Corporation, have ſtrained every nerve to prevent it.

In anſwer to ſeveral charges of miſconduct in the management of the affairs of the Corporation, the ſame noble Lord replied, that ſome degree of frailty is inſeparable from human nature. For this reaſon the opponents of the late bill contend, with all due ſubmiſſion, that a reciprocal check, and a mutual control, between the different branches of the Corporation, are neceſſary.

Had ſuch wholeſome reſtraints been impoſed by the former Surgeons' bill, the Company would not have been reduced to a ſtate of inſolvency, as it was a few years ago, after the receipt of ſuch conſiderable ſums; and without any evident cauſe, but embezzlement and profuſion.—Few ſocieties can boaſt ſo large a revenue; few are

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burdened with leſs needful expenſe: yet none have done leſs to fulfil the laudable deſigns of their inſtitution. From their own confeſſion it appears, they have been prodigal in their expenditure, but ſparing in promoting the improvement of the art. From the account of thoſe who have been examined by them it appears, they have been careleſs in their examinations, but not careleſs in the receipt of cuſtom: they have even ſo far forgotten the dignity of their office, as to ſcramble for the new guineas, before the ſucceſsful candidate for admiſſion had left the room. But perhaps the contraction of the palmaris muſcle might have been involuntary: from their tranſport at ſeeing their beloved Sovereign, they might have been thrown into *ſudden convulſions*, and compelled to ſeize *the glittering prize.*

To return to the author of The Dreſſing:—although he deſpairs of making any impreſſion on the mind of Lord Thurlow, yet he hopes he ſhall be able to expoſe his inſtability, and cruſh the effects of his prejudices. But inſtability and prejudice are inconſiſtent with the greatneſs of underſtanding, and expanſion of mind, which he allows his Lordſhip to poſſeſs; and with the declaration, that his name has hitherto ſtood high; and, that the oppoſing temper of an ex-miniſter, is not congenial with the

ſame of a Thurlow.—He tells his Lordſhip, that he really thought him ſuperior to the dirty zeal of a faction. How then could he ſuppoſe his Lordſhip would countenance the faction, who brought in a bill to ſubvert the fundamental rights of a Corporation; and to give the ſanction of law to plunder and oppreſſion? He tells Lord Thurlow, he really thought, that any undertaking, built on the well-grounded plea of public utility, would have found a warm partiſan in his Lordſhip. This is rather ſtrange; ſince he accuſes his Lordſhip of a total inattention to all religion and morality. Such a character could never be depended on as a ſupporter of any *laudable* undertaking; but might well be expected, to be a warm partiſan to *the Surgeons' bill.*

That bill had as many heads as the Lernæan hydra; and its breath was equally peſtilential. The Herculean taſk of quelling the monſter was deſtined for a Thurlow; and it required all the fire of his eloquence to ſubdue it.—To enumerate and deſcribe all the baneful and obnoxious heads of this bill, would be another Herculean taſk. A brief account of its nature may ſuffice. One intention of it was to monopolize practice, another to gratify ambition; another to legalize irregular proceedings, another to indemnify dilapidation, another to fortify deſpotiſm; another

to extend encroachment, another to ſanction robbery.—If any proof of its demerit were neceſſary, after its rejection in the Houſe of Lords, the abjuration of it by many, who were induced by miſrepreſentation, and undue influence, to ſign a declaration in its favour, is a ſufficient teſtimony. It is a well-known fact, that moſt of thoſe who ſigned the declaration in its favour, rejoiced at its downfal. Many of them I have converſed with: only one of them ſaid a ſingle word in its defence. That gentleman acknowledged he had ſigned an approbation of it, from the repreſentations of it on the part of its framers: he declared he would *ſtick by it*; but confeſſed *he had never ſeen it.* Some of its adherents confeſſed they were influenced by friendſhip; ſome by hopes, and others by fears.—Some gave the ſame reaſons for refuſing to ſign the petition againſt the bill: others declared they were deterred by fear of expenſe, from engaging in a conteſt with the framers of the bill; who would defray their expenſe out of the funds of the Corporation. As a proof of the exertions made, and influence employed, in favour of the bill, one gentleman aſſured me, that applications for that purpoſe had been made to him, directly or indirectly, by every perſon immediately intereſted in its ſucceſs.

Our

Our author avers, that to extinguiſh the fame of the ſurgeon, you muſt extinguiſh the maladies of mankind.—It is a little unfortunate, that among other arts and ſciences, logic did not make a part of our author's education; and that when he made a proficiency in the botanical knowledge of Solomon, he did not alſo learn a little of his wiſdom. He would then have known, that nothing could ſo much *exalt* the fame of the ſurgeon, inſtead of *extinguiſhing* it, as *extinguiſhing* the maladies of mankind.—Why is the gout called the *opprobrium medicorum*, but from the inability of phyſicians to cure it? And what can extinguiſh the fame of the ſurgeon? Not the extinction of maladies, but his inability to cure them.

This remark our author cloſes, by obſerving, that how far Lord Thurlow is able to extinguiſh either the fame of the ſurgeon, or the maladies of mankind, we may beſt learn from his own infirmities.—Here again we ſee the lively trait of a liberal and generous diſpoſition; and of a noble ſpirit, that ſcorns to triumph over an enemy. Such a writer accuſes Lord Thurlow of illiberality, with a good grace! But ſome people may be ſo ill-natured as to think, that even, here, they again ſee the old lion, at the point of death, inſulted by the ſilly animal, who once clothed himſelf in his ſkin.

According to his uſual rectitude of judgment, our author tells us, that the want of a chirurgical teſt will become a ground of monopoly. By the ſame logic he might prove the many to be leſs than the few. If our author had been of this opinion, and that he and his colleagues would have enjoyed that monopoly, he would not have thought of the ſimilitude between ſurgery and Mount Ætna; his own mountain would not have brought forth a mouſe; nor ſhould we have had the pleaſure of ſeeing *The Dreſſing prepared for Lord Thurlow.*

Our author tells Lord Thurlow, that if he ſuppoſes this defeat can hurt our profeſſion, he errs moſt egregiouſly. This confeſſion, in which I perfectly coincide, ſhows the iniquity of his cauſe, and the injuſtice of his reproaches.—This envenomed philippic, which breathes an implacable ſpirit of rancour and revenge, will beſt evince the diſappointment ſuffered, and the mortification felt, by thoſe who are vanquiſhed: but whatever diſappointment they ſuffer, and whatever mortification they feel,—to the profeſſion at large it is *a triumph.*

Remarks

Remarks on "An Addreſs to Surgeons "throughout the Britiſh Dominions."

A CIRCUMSTANCE, of no importance to the reader, having retarded the publication of the preceding remarks, I am enabled to add a few obſervations on another pamphlet on the ſame ſubject, entitled, *A Short Addreſs to the Profeſſors of Surgery throughout his Majeſty's Dominions, on the Bill lately brought into Parliament for erecting the Corporation of Surgeons in London into a College.*—Till this prodigy of literature appeared, we hailed *The Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow* as an unparalleled effort of genius;

Nil oriturum alias, nil ortum tale fatentes;

but when put in competition with this, it looks like droſs when compared to *pure lead.*

Had the firſt pamphlet in defence of the Surgeons' bill met with the fate it deſerved, and been burnt by the hands of the finiſher of the law, we might have ſuppoſed the ſecond a phœnix riſing from its aſhes.—It ſeems to be intended as a prop to ſupport the dignity of ſurgery; but, alas! it is a broken reed!—It ſeems intended

intended as an additional feather in the cap of ſurgery; but, alas! it is plucked from *a gooſe!*

Our author laments in pathetic terms, the degraded ſtate to which the profeſſion of ſurgery is reduced, by the oppoſition which effected the rejection of the Surgeons' bill. But it would be unfortunate for the honour of religion itſelf, if the luſtre of its name could be tarniſhed by the conduct of its miniſters and profeſſors. No man, who has a juſt ſenſe of the importance of ſurgery, as well as phyſic, to the happineſs and welfare of mankind, will refuſe his aſſent to the encomium of the great Roman orator: *Namque homines nunquam propiùs diis accedunt, quàm ſalutem hominibus dando.*

The author endeavours to remove an objection which has been made to the bill, on account of its being introduced to Parliament in a clandeſtine manner; and thinks this cannot be applied to the Surgeons' bill, which was preſented for the conſideration of the Lords and Commons of Great Britain in Parliament aſſembled. He ſays, To do a thing clandeſtinely implies the doing a thing ſecretly, leſt it being publicly done ſhould fail of the ſucceſs propoſed.—Had he been privy counſellor to the framers of the bill, he could not more accurately have delineated the plan of their proceedings. No notice was given

to

to the Corporation of any intention to bring in ſuch an act; nor was a proper explanation given to Parliament of the various innovations and uſurpations attempted; of which its rejection, on the diſcovery of the fraud, is the beſt proof. Like the ſerpent in Paradiſe, or the Trojan horſe, not its preſence, but its deſign was clandeſtine. When Guy Fawkes and his friends carried combuſtibles into the ſame Parliament Houſe, not their introduction of the combuſtibles, but their deſign was clandeſtine.

How exactly has the author of the *Addreſs to Surgeons*, as well as the preparer of the *Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow*, when fearful of being foiled in his deſign, imitated the example of the great prototype of them both! He,

> ——— with ſhow of zeal and love
> To man, and indignation at his wrong,
> New part puts on, and as to paſſion mov'd,
> Fluctuates diſturb'd.

In ſhort, he is highly incenſed at the rejection of the Surgeons' bill;—*but it is all from motives of humanity!*

He next endeavours to lay a phantom, which, in all probability, never aroſe but in his own imagination.—He gravely tells us, that the offices of the Counſellors were not intended to be

hereditary. He alſo aſſures us, that the ſaid Counſellors were only to hold their places during their *natural lives*. This is comfortable information; and gives us room to hope, that when a new Surgeons' bill is paſſed, no Examiner who leads the *unnatural life* of rapine and extortion, nor any *caput mortuum*, incapable of diſcharging his duty, will ever be ſeen in their court again.

He informs us, that the number of officers who were to tranſact the buſineſs of the College, was twenty-one; but the number that manages the buſineſs of the Corporation, he tells us, is twenty-four; and this alteration he approves of. —Probably he thinks three Directors may be diſpenſed with, as well as dinners, in a *learned ſociety*. But the fact is, that he cannot reckon twenty-four managers of the affairs of the Company; unleſs he includes the two ſpiritual Peers, and the temporal Peer, who managed their affairs ſo well in the Houſe of Lords; and went through thick and thin to ſerve—*a friend*.

Our author gives his opinion, that the public buſineſs of all corporations is beſt conducted where there are feweſt managers. This was the opinion of Mr. Gibbs, counſel for the bill; and the friends of it ſeemed to agree with him; for after that day only Mr. Warren appeared, to plead their cauſe. This is alſo the opinion of the

the proprietor and manager of the borough of Old Sarum; a borough to which a pair of voters can go down cheek by jole in a ſingle-horſe chaiſe; a borough in which there has been no diviſion, or conteſted election for many years, notwithſtanding it poſſeſſes an excellent *manufactory for members of Parliament.*

Should the Maſter and Wardens think proper to petition for a bill conſtituting them a triumvirate, here is an advocate ready to defend their cauſe.—He maintains, that the fewer managers there are of the buſineſs of a Corporation the better, provided there are a ſufficient number to form the reſpective courts.—On the preſent occaſion he ſhows himſelf a great ſurgeon, by healing a breach before it is made, and giving a proof that he is in poſſeſſion of more than a ſalve for every ſore.—In reſpect to the paucity which he recommends, perhaps he thinks the fewer hands in a purſe the better; at any rate, *the fewer the better cheer.* Nor can a triumvirate be ſaid to be inſufficient for forming the reſpective Courts. Two may compoſe the Court of Examiners, and three the Court of Aſſiſtants. Start not, gentle reader, nor ſuppoſe that any of them are to be ſplit, in order to convert the three members into five. The Examiners may be *their own Aſſiſtants; as they are at preſent.*

The ſuppoſed reduction of number, as I before obſerved, our author conſiders as an improvement. Let the lovers of antiquity, and of antiquated notions, admire Solomon; but "a greater "than Solomon is here."—Solomon ſays, "In a "multitude of counſellors there is ſafety;" our author, on the contrary, ſays, "The fewer coun-"ſellors the better:" and with reſpect to *evil counſellors*, his propoſition is true.

Our author expreſſes a hope, that people will no longer be frightened at the names of Preſident, Vice-Preſidents, Cenſors, and Counſellors, as at ſo many bugbears; ſince it does not appear, that any other pecuniary emoluments were meant to be attached to thoſe offices, than are now enjoyed by the Maſter, Wardens, and Court of Aſſiſtants. In another part of his book, he apologizes for the conduct of the Examiners and the Court of Aſſiſtants, in extending their juriſdiction to army and navy ſurgeons, and over a greater extent of territory. Hence it is evident, that he knew they were aiming at an increaſe of revenue; a prominent feature in the late bill. —*This* is the writer, who "candidly ſtates *truth*, "and who is fearleſs of cenſure; conſcious that "his intentions are irreproachable." "Beware "of thoſe who come to you in ſheep's cloath-"ing; for inwardly they are ravening wolves." He pretends to a vaſt deal of candour and veracity;

city; but the ardour of his virtue ſeems, at times, to cool; he is very fond of *lying in ſheets*.

One poſition the author lays down, which, he ſays, and truly ſays, " the moſt ſtrenuous op-" poſers of the bill will admit to be a truiſm, " that needs no arguments to prove or illuſtrate. " It is, that the Governors of the Company are " bound to maintain, to the beſt of their power, " all the rights, privileges, and immunities, " granted to the Corporation." It is not the maintenance, but the violation of thoſe rights, privileges, and immunities of the Corporation, of which the oppoſers of the bill complain. They complain not only of *the paſt violation of their rights*, but of *the preſent attempt, to alienate all their property, and annihilate all their privileges*; of an attempt, to obtain *an unlimited power of taxation, an unlimited control, and an unconditional oath of obedience*; of an attempt, *to aggravate their burdens, to rivet their chains, and perpetuate their ſlavery*.

Such was the palpable deſign of the Surgeons' bill. But its baneful tendency did not reſt here. It veſted the Court of Examiners with a power of extorting from all army and navy ſurgeons, under colour of law, ſuch conſiderable ſums as they have hitherto been in the habit of extorting, whenever they could, contrary to law. They

likewiſe inſerted a clauſe, to make all ſurgeons between ſeven and ten miles tributary to them; yet this defender of their conduct modeſtly aſſerts, that it does not appear they deſigned to augment their income.

He ſays, he has been informed, that the Examiners do not get above thirty pounds *per annum*, on an average. I have known it aſſerted, that they get one hundred pounds, and, by another authority, that they get two hundred pounds *per annum*. This muſt be variable, as it depends on peace and war, and other circumſtances. At any rate, the fees of the office are but a trifling object, in compariſon of other advantages that accrue from the ſituation.

He commends the Governors of the Corporation, for purchaſing beyond the limitations allowed by act of Parliament; and violating the law of the land. But if they found themſelves too much reſtrained by that law, it was not their duty to tranſgreſs it firſt, and then to ſolicit its repeal. The Governors of the Corporation of Surgeons muſt indeed be in a *degraded ſtate*, if they can derive honour from actions, that would diſgrace other men!

Speaking of the right of the Maſter, Wardens, and Court of Aſſiſtants for the time being, to diſpoſe

diſpoſe of the property of the Corporation without their conſent, he commits a ſmall miſtake, by forgetting that *a ſteward* does not mean *a proprietor*;—a miſtake which too many ſtewards are apt to commit.—As yet, not the excluſive property, as this author pretends, and as they themſelves wiſh, but only the management of the property, is inveſted in them.

He aſks, Where the propriety of diſpoſing of the Hall could be more *impaſſionately* weighed and deliberated on, than in a Court of Aſſiſtants formed by men of unblemiſhed honour and integrity? According to what he ſubjoins, it might be more *impaſſionately* conſidered in a Common Hall; which, he ſays, give riſe to *trains of paſſion*, and *paſſionate declamations and reflections*.

But if he means to contend, that the queſtion of *diſpoſſeſſing* the Company of their property, and making an improvident purchaſe, can no where be ſo *diſ*paſſionately conſidered, as in a Court of Aſſiſtants, I can inform him, that there have been men, who could not ſee without the warmeſt expreſſions of indignation, the ſhameful expenditure, and unbounded prodigality and profuſion, that have always prevailed in that Court; of which Mr. Gunning's minute, lately read in the Committee of the Houſe of Lords, and printed, gives ſome faint idea. So much

much for *a Court of Aſſiſtants, formed by men of unblemiſhed honour and integrity!!!*

Our author boaſts of the extraordinary abilities of the Examiners. Whatever extraordinary abilities they may poſſeſs, certain it is, that they take care *not to let their light ſhine before men.* "Let us," ſays he, "as long as poſſible avoid "convening public meetings; and while we "have, (as now is our boaſt), gentlemen of the "firſt rank in their profeſſion, and of the moſt "perfect rectitude and upright intentions, for "our governors, be ſatisfied, that whatever is "done by them in a corporate capacity, is done "for the honour of the profeſſion at large, and "for the general good of mankind."—How unfortunate it is, that this doctrine of the infallibility of the Court of Aſſiſtants was not preached before the Houſe of Lords!—But their day is paſt!

He gives us to underſtand, that the phyſicians have diſgraced themſelves by their feuds and animoſities; and expreſſes a fear, leſt ſurgeons ſhould ſhare the fate of their brethren in the *ars medendi.*—"The art of ſurgery," he maintains, "is of equal importance to mankind as that of "phyſic, therefore deſerving equally to be ho-"noured; but from cauſes that *is* not material "here to inſiſt on, is practiſed by few with that "marked

" marked reſpect it is entitled to: and perhaps " one very eſſential reaſon of that diſtinguiſhed " pre-eminence the cuſtom of the world *allow* " to phyſicians, is the blending the buſineſs of " an apothecary with the practice of ſurgery." While ſurgeons can boaſt of ſuch an ornament to their profeſſion, let apothecaries keep a reſpectful diſtance. *Procul, o procul, eſte profani!* The phyſicians themſelves will no longer diſpute the palm of pre-eminence. Well may this author deſpiſe critics, and declare that he fears no cenſure: but he would recommend *harmony* and unanimity with a better grace, if he did not ſhow himſelf ſuch an eternal enemy to *concord*.

As a proof that the ſeeming falſe concords and incongruities in our anthor's phraſeology, are not typographical errors, but real refinements in ſpeech, I ſhall produce another inſtance.—The increaſe of powers the bill craved *were*, liberty to purchaſe, &c. It may not be improper to give a ſpecimen of his *conciſe* yet *elegant* diction. —" Their buſineſs as apothecaries is ſubordi- " nate to the more noble art of phyſic and ſur- " gery, therefore *highly proper* that the bye-laws " of the Company ſhould preclude thoſe ſur- " geons who practiſe as apothecaries, however " ſhining their chirurgical talents may be, from " being elected as Governors of a body incor- " porated for the honour and welfare of the art

" of ſurgery only." The reaſon he gives is, that their buſineſs as apothecaries is ſubordinate to the more noble *art* of *phyſic* and *ſurgery*. But why ſhould phyſic be introduced on this occaſion, as a buoy to ſurgery, unleſs to exalt ſurgery above its fellow? Our author admits, that among thoſe practiſing pharmacy, there are many perſons of the moſt unexceptionable characters, *ſecond to none in medical and chirurgical abilities*. To this author it appears, that ſurgery is degraded by being practiſed by ſuch men; but to me it appears, that thoſe men are never more degraded, than when they examine a ſcirrhous rectum, give glyſters, operate for fiſtulas, dreſs ſore legs, and do other dirty operations in ſurgery. If this is honour, it is honour *a poſteriori*. If any thing can reconcile men of ſcience to theſe mean and humiliating offices of a ſurgeon, or manual operator, it is only the conſolation of alleviating the diſtreſs of ſuffering humanity.

But it is a little ſingular, that *ſurgeons* ſhould be puffed up with this over-weening pride; who, if they poſſeſſed a particle of reflexion, and philoſophic ſpirit, would be reminded much oftener than Philip of Macedon was, that they are but men; and that pride was not made for man.—Beſides, making allowance for prejudice, what excuſe can be given for their contempt of pharmacy, if it really exiſted? but which I doubt.

doubt. If ſurgeons are, as our author affirms, *gentlemen*, ſo are attornies, yet they follow the trade and occupation of a money-ſcrivener; the clergy are gentlemen, yet they follow the trade and occupation of a farmer. Even peers of the realm, and crowned heads, have not diſdained the purſuits of agriculture. When Rome flouriſhed in all her glory, the conquerors of the world retired to the plough. Thoſe nations who have aſſerted the dignity of human nature moſt, have always conferred moſt honour on uſeful arts:

Hanc olim veteres vitam coluere Sabini;
Hanc Remus et frater; ſic fortis Etruria crevit;
Scilicet et rerum facta eſt pulcherrima Roma,
Septemque una ſibi muro circumdedit arces.

But ſtill this author cannot but conſider the blending the buſineſs of an apothecary with the practice of ſurgery, as an union degrading, in the eyes of the world, the *dignity* due to the art of ſurgery. He does not conſider, that the ſcience and practice of ſurgery are as diſtinct, as phyſic and pharmacy. When therefore the ſurgeon employs the means of cure, he deſcends, like the apothecary after viſiting his patient, to execute, or ſuperintend, the mechanical and miniſterial part of his profeſſion. Though I would not wiſh the world to refuſe to the lords of the

the Surgeons' Company the honour due unto their names; yet I beg to remind thoſe gentlemen, that "he who *exalteth himſelf* ſhall be "abaſed."

The framers of the Surgeons' bill would have conſulted the dignity of their profeſſion, and their own dignity, much more, if they had not brought before Parliament a bill, which they dared not bring before their own Corporation; and if they had not paſſed bye-laws, which they wiſhed the Legiſlature to confirm in the lump, becauſe they were afraid to have them ſcrutinized, and aſhamed to introduce them into the body of the bill.—It is not a zeal for the honour of the profeſſion, or for the honour of the Houſe in Lincoln's Inn Fields, that hath eaten them up; but the canker of ſelf intereſt.

Our author expreſſes a wiſh to aggrandize the profeſſion, and put it on the ſame honourable footing it ſtands on in Scotland and Ireland. Here he expoſes his ignorance in the higheſt degree; ſince the two branches of the profeſſion are united in both thoſe kingdoms; and in one of them, at leaſt, the Examiners are elected annually, by and from the whole body.—This may ſerve as an appendix to the *Iriſh Propoſitions*.

Not

Not only the practice of phyſic and pharmacy by Examiners, but by all other Surgeons, ought to be interdicted, if it can be proved, that the ſiſter arts can be ſeparated with advantage; if it can be proved, that dreſſing a ſore head adds too much dignity to an apothecary, and makes him too proud; or that a man who, by his medical as well as chirurgical ſkill, prevents *the neceſſity of operations*, is a nuiſance *to the public*, as well as to the *ſurgeon* who merely knows how to *perform* them.

Should a renewal of the power of making bye-laws be deemed expedient, I truſt ſome bounds will be ſet to it by the Legiſlature;—by a tribunal more liberal, more enlightened, and more diſintereſted, than the tribunal of the Corporation of Surgeons; and that the Supreme Power of the Realm will not ſuffer a ſubordinate Legiſlature, a ſecond time, to render its ſalutary regulations of none effect.

This ingenious author tells us, that "although the Governors of the Company have "exceeded the bounds limited by act of Par-"liament, and although what exceeds the limit-"ations there preſcribed may be liable to be "ſeized by the Crown under the Mortmain act, "yet no one is injured by the purchaſe." This ſhows that the Company's funds are inexhauſti-

ble; as they can loſe thouſands, it ſeems, and not be the worſe for it.—If he means to infer, that the officers of government will forbear to put the right of law into execution, it only tends to prove, that they are leſs rapacious than the officers of the Surgeons' Company, who ſo often go beyond the law.

Beſides other artifices practiſed, to enhance the emoluments of the Court of Examiners, I was this day informed of one by an India Surgeon.—He tells me, that a certain Examiner, who was fond of a good fee and a good dinner, had the addreſs to prevail on the Court of Directors of the India Company, ſome years ago, to paſs a reſolution, to compel all India ſurgeons to take out the half-diploma; or, in other words, to pay above ten pounds more for their Examination, than they paid before; or than army and navy ſurgeons pay now. To this impoſition he was obliged to ſubmit; and thus a new ſource of wealth was opened to the Examiners of the Company of Surgeons. *This is the manner in which they examine India ſurgeons—gratis.*

Our author obſerves, that the intent of extending the juriſdiction of the Corporation three miles beyond its preſent bounds, would of itſelf ſcarcely have been objected to; a proof that he

knew

knew what he aſſerted, concerning the non-increaſe of pecuniary emoluments, to be untrue.

He ſays, the Examiners were bound to maintain the rights and privileges of the Corporation. True: but they were not bound to invade the rights and privileges of army and navy ſurgeons. Former Courts of Examiners, and Courts of Aſſiſtants, were equally bound, if oaths and obligations of duty could bind them, to maintain the rights and privileges of the Corporation; but in the year 1745, a period, *like the preſent*, pregnant with rebellions againſt lawful authority, they rebelled againſt the members of the Corporation at large, by whom their power was delegated in truſt; wreſted the privilege of electing all the officers of the Corporation from their conſtituents; and procured an act of Parliament, to ſanction the uſurpation. Far be it from me, to impute the leaſt blame to Parliament in that tranſaction: Parliament was deluded; and the Corporation had no *Thurlow* to plead their cauſe!

Our author remarks, that among the privileges granted to the Company, in common with all corporate bodies, is that of making bye-laws. This is a power which has been much abuſed. The Court of Examiners, not ſatisfied with having robbed the Corporation of the right of being

being *electors*, paſſed a bye-law, to render at leaſt nine-tenths of them incapable of being *elected*. Emboldened by ſucceſs, then, as well as now, they took larger and larger ſtrides, and made greater and greater encroachments. They even attempted to ſuperſede the laws of the land, by enacting a bye-law, to prevent any perſon from practiſing ſurgery without a diploma; forgetting that it was the province of their Court, not to have dominion over the whole community, but over the members of their own Corporation, and over *Surgeons' Hall. Illâ ſe jacet in Aulâ.*

To thoſe who, like the authors of the ridiculous and contemptible pamphlets in defence of the Surgeons' bill, vaunt too much of the dignity of ſurgery, in order to diſparage another branch of the medical profeſſion, I would recommend, as a leſſon for their vanity, to recollect the mortification which they muſt have felt, from the little reſpect they met with from the late King of Sweden; one of the ſovereigns of Europe, who *heard of our chirurgical fame*, and ſent for ſome Engliſh ſurgeons. So little did that great man regard their upſtart pride, or think *the buſineſs of an apothecary ſubordinate to the more noble art of ſurgery*, as this author expreſſes it, that he ordered them to be flogged, for refuſing *to ſhave his men.* If the author of the Addreſs

was

was one of thoſe who ſuffered this diſgraceful puniſhment, it is no wonder he ſpeaks ſo *feelingly* of the dignity of ſurgeons.

Our author obſerves, that in the year 1762, an act was paſſed, to enable ſuch officers, mariners, and ſoldiers, as have been in the land or ſea ſervice, *and their wives and children*, to ſet up, and exerciſe their trades, in any part of the kingdom. It may be proper to mention, that this was an act of *the Parliament at Weſtminſter*, not of that in *the Old Bailey*, which had promulgated the *interdiction*. It is ſuppoſed many of their *wives* and *children* have availed themſelves of this act; as there are great numbers of *old women* and *children* ſettled in the practice of ſurgery, as well as phyſic, in every part of the Britiſh dominions.

Our author hopes ſurgery is, and ever will be, a profeſſion, and not a trade. I hope the profeſſors of it will never make a trade of it by diſgraceful practices; nor make a trade of applying to Parliament for bills, to diſcourage and degrade their profeſſion.

He thinks that ſurgeons were not meant to be comprehended in the act; otherwiſe, that the expreſſions, art, ſcience, profeſſion, or faculty, would have been annexed. "Then," he ſays,

" the profeſſors of ſurgery, and *the members of* " *the commonalty of the art and ſcience of ſurgeons* " *of London,* who had ſerved in his Majeſty's " army or navy, would indiſputably have come " under the deſcription in the act." This is a mighty conceſſion. By the ſame kind of logic he may be able to prove in time, that the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen may acquire the right of ſettling as citizens of London, and of exerciſing their ſeveral arts, ſciences, profeſſions, faculties, and trades, by ſerving as officers, mariners, or ſoldiers, in the land or ſea ſervice, for a ſufficient length of time.

The title of *the Commonalty of the Company,* to ſettle within *the precincts of the juriſdiction of the Company,* is indiſputable: but ſurely the Legiſlature, when it held out a bounty to encourage perſons of all denominations to ſerve their country in a military capacity, did not mean to offer ſuch an indignity to officers, who are expreſsly included in the act, as to grant them the liberty of ſettling in *a trade,* and refuſe them the privilege of purſuing *a profeſſion,* ſuitable to their rank and abilities.

The author of *The Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow* aſſerts, that one intention of the Surgeons' bill was to grant the navy ſurgeons a final and laſting recompenſe, and a domeſtic ſettlement.

This

This author thinks Government had no ſuch benevolent intention in the act above alluded to; but meant to make a *ſutor è medico*; and to grant him no recompenſe, or *domeſtic ſettlement*, but in a *cobler's ſtall*.

Our author is ſo liberal as to allow, that *ſurgeons* who have for a certain time ſerved their King and Country, ought to be permitted to ſettle where they pleaſe. But he cannot aſſent to granting the ſame liberty to *ſurgeon's mates*, without a ſcrutiny: a diſtinction which well deſerves the attention of the Legiſlature.

He informs us, that the prohibitory bye-law was approved at different times by the great law-lords, among whom he mentions Lord Thurlow. That noble Lord has been convinced of his error, and retracted it. I hope the framers of the late bill will retract their errors alſo; and that what reflects honour on one, who added dignity to the character of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, will not be thought derogatory to the *dignity of a ſurgeon*.

One obſervation naturally ariſes out of this ſubject; which is, that if a Hardwicke, a Lee, a Willes, a Thurlow, a Mansfield, and a Loughborough, have given an erroneous opinion, the buſineſs is too important, and too in-

tricate, to admit any juſtification of the conduct of thoſe, who introduced it into Parliament in a clandeſtine way, diſguiſed it by falſe pretences, conducted it through its different ſtages in a ſurreptitious manner, employed every ſpecies of miſrepreſentation, and on all occaſions made uſe of every dirty manœuvre, in order to take the Legiſlature by ſurpriſe. If the greateſt oracles, and brighteſt luminaries of this age and nation, have proved themſelves on this occaſion to be but fallible men, what a ſerious admonition is this to the members of the Legiſlature in general, not precipitately to form a deciſive opinion upon the queſtion!

It would be doing injuſtice to the learned author of the Addreſs to Surgeons, an addreſs deſigned to vindicate the honour of the profeſſion, not to tranſcribe one paſſage more from his elaborate work. Speaking of Lord Thurlow, he ſays, "However that may be, his Lordſhip's *at-*
"*tempts* to place the ſurgeons of the navy and
"army under the protection of the 3d and 24th
"of his preſent Majeſty, *is* an abſolute contra-
"diction to the *bye-laws*, which his Lordſhip
"ſolemnly approved in his high legal character
"of Lord Chancellor of England, that *ordains*,
"in the ſtrongeſt expreſſions," &c. It is a little remarkable that this gentleman ſhould inveigh ſo earneſtly againſt *enmities* and *contentions*, whoſe

whoſe utter averſion to *concord* is evident in every page.

He remarks, that before phyſicians and ſurgeons became corporate bodies, no perſons of either of thoſe profeſſions were permitted to practiſe, till their abilities had been examined and approved. This he confirms by citing a clauſe of the act of the 3d of Henry VIII. which enacts, that "no perſon within the city of London, nor within ſeven miles of the ſame, take upon him to exerciſe and occupy as a phyſician or ſurgeon, except he be firſt examined and approved." Another clauſe in this ſtatute enacts, "That no one ſhall practiſe out of the city and precinct of ſeven miles, *in any dioceſe of the realm*, unleſs approved by the Biſhop of the dioceſe, or, in his abſence, his Vicar-general, calling to their aſſiſtance ſuch perſons in the ſaid faculties, as their diſcretion ſhall think convenient." By whatever means the arms of the law are become ſhortened, and theſe ſalutary proviſions, a dead letter, I truſt the Legiſlators of the preſent day will venerate the wiſdom of our anceſtors, and like them liſten to the call of humanity; and ſhow themſelves not leſs attentive to the happineſs and welfare of the nation, than the Legiſlators of the age of Henry the Eighth.

Our author pathetically and juſtly declaims, againſt ſuffering ignorant perſons to ſettle, and practiſe ſurgery, in any city or town in the kingdom, Oxford and Cambridge excepted. Neither he, nor any other perſon, can allege any reaſon, why Oxford or Cambridge in particular ſhould be exempt from the general carnage; or why the meaneſt village in the kingdom ſhould not be as much an object of legiſlative protection as the metropolis itſelf. That ſome general regulation may take place, in due ſeaſon, to reſcue mankind from the ravages of ignorance and empiriciſm, is a conſummation devoutly to be wiſhed; and that the human ſpecies may not always continue to be the only game, allowed by law to be killed, *without either qualification or licence.*

In a poſtſcript to this curious pamphlet we are told, that "juſt as theſe ſheets were going to the "preſs, the author underſtands that *Reflections* "on the Surgeons' bill *is* about *publiſhing*. He "thinks proper to ſay, that he is perfectly a "ſtranger to the contents of the intended publi-"cation; and does not, at preſent, know the "writer." He reminds us by frequent examples of our unfortunate *falſe concord*; and that there is a time to be *active* inſtead of *paſſive*. But while I wiſh to do juſtice to his merit, I cannot beſtow any great eulogium on the conſiſtency of an

author,

author, who ſets out with recommending cool reaſoning, and diſclaims all ſarcaſtic reflections and ſplenetic invectives; then ſets every part of ſpeech together by the ears; and fills his book with *bad language* from one end to the other. I fear this is not the way to reſcue ſurgery from its preſent *degraded ſtate*, and to reſtore it to its primitive dignity.

I ſhall cloſe my obſervations on this performance, with a copy of remarks on the Surgeons' bill, publiſhed while the bill was under the conſideration of Parliament. This I ſubjoin as a ſupplement to the foregoing reflections:

Nil actum reputans, ſi quid ſupereſſet agendum.

Remarks on the Bill for erecting the Corporation of Surgeons of London into a College, &c.

THERE is, at this time, pending in Parliament, an act, in which the Company of Surgeons are held out as the petitioners to render their Corporation collegiate, whilſt not more than twenty-one of five hundred exiſting members of that Corporation have been conſulted on its expediency or contents, and eleven only have petitioned for it. It is intended, by this act, to confirm

confirm to theſe twenty-one perſons, who are to be called Counſellors, (nineteen of whom are, in ſaid act, already nominated,) a dominion for life over all the ſurgeons in London, and its vicinity, for ten miles round, together with the excluſive power of electing to vacancies in their own body.

The act therefore delegates, to theſe twenty-one Counſellors, the uncontrolled management and expenditure of the revenues of this extenſive and increaſing Corporation. But there is not a member upon their liſts, who has not already, equally with themſelves, contributed to augment thoſe revenues; nor can any man, in future, be admitted a member among them, but he muſt likewiſe contribute a prompt, arbitrary fine, and an annual ſubſcription, to ſupport the finances of this College*. Every member muſt, like themſelves, have undergone the eſtabliſhed examination, touching his profeſſional fitneſs. He becomes, from the moment he is admitted, as unequivocally entitled, as themſelves, to all the privileges of his profeſſion; but, from the operation of the bill in queſtion, he muſt owe, to the partial favour alone of theſe ſelf-nominated Counſellors, the attainment of that rank and in-

* This point has been given up for the preſent; in conſequence of the oppoſition to the bill.

fluence,

fluence, to which long experience and approved abilities ſhould give the only claim.

Theſe twenty-one Counſellors petition, moreover, to ſecure to themſelves, and their ſucceſſors, (to be elected by their own body,) the privilege of making and altering, or abrogating, at pleaſure, all collegiate ordinances, for the profeſſional government and direction of the body at large, who muſt be, therefore, bound to the ſtrict obſervance of ſuch ordinances, without the privilege of combating, or in any way reſiſting them, however partial, unjuſt, or oppreſſive; and, except from their penal operation, they have not even the means of becoming acquainted with their origin, nature, or extent.

Is it probable that twenty-one perſons, legally inveſted with ſuch arbitrary power, will conſult the public welfare, in oppoſition to the ſtrong intereſts ariſing from conſanguinity and patronage? Is it not more probable that the ſons or relatives of theſe Counſellors, or their apprentices, from whom they may receive premiums proportionably high, will be preferred,—to the neglect of older and wiſer men,—to the neglect of men of eminent literary character,—or of men who may probably have ſuſtained all the ravages of climate, and all the dangers of war, in the ſervice of their country, as army or navy ſurgeons? Can

it

it be juſt to eſtabliſh an hereditary or adoptive ſucceſſion, in a College, which ſhould diſcountenance and oppoſe every principle reſtrictive of the liberal advancement of an art, the moſt inſtrumental to the ſecurity and enjoyment of life?

Had theſe petitioners directed their attention to the learned Colleges in any part of Europe, they could ſcarcely have found any one poſſeſt of the arbitrary power, which they are endeavouring to obtain; whilſt from every quarter they might have drawn examples of far more liberal conduct. Might they not have found examples in the election of the councils of the Royal and Antiquary Societies of this kingdom, than which no incorporations can be conducted with greater dignity, nor with more general ſatisfaction?

If, indeed, it were practicable for a few men to monopolize profeſſional talents, learning, induſtry, and experience, it might, perhaps, be wiſe to eſtabliſh a College, from which ſhould be diffuſed, for the general benefit of mankind, the reſult of their deliberations. But the men, who are now petitioning for collegiate privileges, have given to the world no proofs that they have cultivated profeſſional ſcience with greater induſtry or ſucceſs, than many others of the Corpo-

 ration,

ration, who are totally excluded from this intended College. That the art of ſurgery has been much improved, during the laſt thirty years, cannot be diſputed; the improvements, however, have not originated in them particularly, but have, in many inſtances, been oppoſed and interrupted by men inveſted with powers ſimilar to thoſe, which they now petition for; and, we doubt not but it muſt be evident, that the diminiſhing the chances of profeſſional promotion, at the very period of human hiſtory, when all the ſources of ſcience are multiplied and expanded, is peculiarly illiberal, and injurious to mankind. Such a plan can only ariſe in minds too narrow to conſult the public good, when placed in oppoſition to the love of power or pecuniary emolument. We have the fulleſt confidence, therefore, that an attempt ſo derogatory to juſtice, merit, and ſcience at large, as that now introduced by the bill in queſtion, will never be countenanced.

Remarks on Mr. CHEVALIER's *Defence of the Surgeons' Bill.*

HAVING delayed the publication of the foregoing ſtrictures, for reaſons not neceſſary to be ſpecified here, I have had an opportunity of peruſing a third defence of the Surgeons' bill, written by Mr. Chevalier.

Mr. C. tells his readers, that "the bill which "was brought into Parliament during the laſt "ſeſſion, for erecting the Corporation of Sur-"geons of London into a College, has been ſo "much miſrepreſented by its opponents, that it "is neceſſary to ſtate to the public the occaſion "of its introduction, and the purpoſes it was in-"tended to anſwer."

Whether Mr. C. is able to prove his aſſertion, we ſhall ſee hereafter: but it is a charge which has been brought with too much reaſon, and eſtabliſhed too clearly, againſt the friends and adherents of the late bill; a charge which comes with an ill grace from Mr. Chevalier, the firſt ſentence of whoſe book contains a groſs miſrepreſentation.

In

In an advertiſement prefixed to the work he informs us, that he attended the meeting at the Crown and Anchor, on the 8th of May, to conſider of the propriety of oppoſing the Surgeons' bill: but being ſoon convinced, that the objections made againſt it were of no force, he thought it his duty at the next meeting, two days after, to ſtate his view of the queſtion. He adds, that ſome gentlemen preſent agreed with him; but a greater number did not. This determined him to inquire more fully into the ſubject; and to publiſh the reſult of his inquiries; in order to remove the miſtakes which had ariſen concerning the bill.

During the whole progreſs of the oppoſition to the bill, Mr. C. acted a conſpicuous part. After ſpeaking againſt the bill, ſubſcribing towards the expenſe of oppoſing it, aſſiſting in drawing up, and ſigning the petition againſt it, he ſuddenly veered about, and ſigned the counter-declaration. From that time he daily attended the progreſs of the bill, in the Houſe of Lords; and was one of its moſt zealous partiſans. Sometimes he acted as the *locum-tenens* of the clerk's clerk, and kept the purple bag. At other times he ſtood by the principal framer of the bill, like a *receiver*, placed there to catch whatever dropt from him; and it muſt be confeſſed, he has caught a

good deal of his *ſpirit*;—*a ſpirit* which ſtands in need of RECTIFICATION.

Whether his converſion was real or pretended, is not material to the public: I ſhall therefore conſider what he has advanced in ſupport of the bill; only premiſing, that he is guilty of miſrepreſentation, when he pretends, that he ſoon perceived the objections made againſt the bill were of no force. It muſt be rather a new occurrence in the annals of Parliament, for a man to beſeech the Legiſlature not to liſten to his own petition, and to blow hot and cold at the ſame time, with the ſame mouth.

Mr. C. is an apothecary, as well as a ſurgeon, and as the rights of ſurgeons practiſing pharmacy have been invaded by the Court of Aſſiſtants, he may be ſuppoſed, in the part which he has taken, to have ſacrificed his own intereſt. But before that point can be determined, it is neceſſary to aſcertain, what are his hopes as an apothecary, and what his pretenſions as a ſurgeon. By flattering thoſe, who could recommend or injure him as an apothecary, he may poſſibly promote his own private advantage; and as all ſurgeons preſcribe, his book may ſave him the trouble and expenſe of writing in his window, *Preſcriptions faithfully prepared here.*

Many

Many members of the Corporation confeſs, that they had but little chance of riſing in ſurgery; and that they ſigned the counter-declaration to oblige Mr. —— or Mr. ——, with whom their buſineſs is much connected: thus acknowledging themſelves to be mean ſycophants and dependants. Were ſtrict inquiry made, it is probable it might appear evident, that a certain gentleman, who would fain be thought diſintereſted, balanced in his own mind his pharmaceutical againſt his chirurgical hopes, *(fatis contraria fata rependens)*, and that his chirurgical hopes kicked the beam. But perhaps it may be deemed illiberal, to ſuppoſe he would ſacrifice to his new divinities *what coſt him nothing*.

Mr. C. hazards a number of bold aſſertions, and diſplays a conſiderable degree of quixotiſm, in defence of the Surgeons' bill. He ſeems apprehenſive leſt it ſhould be imagined, that the age of chivalry is gone, and the glory of the Surgeons' Company extinguiſhed for ever.

From his verſatility he bears much leſs reſemblance to the renowned Chevalier of Spain, than to his antagoniſt the windmill. If his defence is not the moſt able, I hope it will prove a cheap one. Yet notwithſtanding his fulſome adulation, if the friends of the bill know their own

own intereſt, they will not thank the authors of ſuch vindications, but exclaim :

Their gifts are more deſtructive than their ſwords.

The object of this book is, to recommend the bill to the Legiſlature and to the public. With this intention he examines into the antiquity of the eſtabliſhment of ſurgery, in this and other countries, and proves that in general it has not been reſpected as it ought to be; having been practiſed by the ſervants of water-doctors, while it was thought unworthy to be followed by the maſters of that honourable occupation: and having been aſſociated in corporations with the meaneſt of trades.

As a proof of the high conſideration in which the profeſſion was held, he gives us to underſtand, that when the monks in France were forbidden to leave their cloiſters, and viſit patients, they turned water-doctors, and ſent their ſervants abroad to ſhave, and do other manual operations. Hence it is no wonder he allows ſurgery a ſuperiority over pharmacy; and thinks himſelf, and other practitioners of pharmacy, unworthy to enter the *ſanctum ſanctorum* in a Surgeons' College. Apothecaries' Hall ought to be the higheſt pinnacle of his ambition:

——Illâ ſe jactet in aulâ.

Having

Having deduced the profeſſion from a moſt reſpectable ſource, and having moreover proved, that the practitioners of that art were not admitted to academical honours, nor even thought worthy of being members of the univerſity of Paris, he proves that in England it was diſgraced ſtill more, by an act of parliament which ordained, that ſurgeons ſhould frequently aſſemble with all the motley crew of the Barber-Surgeons' Company, conſiſting of barbers, bagnio-keepers, drapers, carpenters,

> Black ſpirits and white,
> Blue ſpirits and grey,

"*for the purpoſe of improving the art, both in ſpe-*
"*culation, and practice.*"

Having thus aſſerted the illuſtrious deſcent of the Corporation, he expreſſes his aſtoniſhment, that Lord Thurlow and others ſhould ſpeak of its origin in diſreſpectful terms. With regard to the ſcience itſelf, its honours are eternal as the heavens; and can never be diminiſhed, or augmented by the breath of mortal fame: but it ill becomes a Corporation to boaſt of its dignity, when it is but juſt *emerging from barberiſm.*

After bringing forward ſufficient evidence to prove, that the profeſſion has too often been diſhonoured and diſgraced, Mr. C. produces a few inſtances

inſtances of its having been ſometimes properly reſpected. But of what advantage are ſuch arguments?

> Non tali auxilio, neque defenſoribus iſtis,
> Tempus eget.

A roſe is not the leſs ſweet, and ought not to be the leſs eſteemed, becauſe it ſprung from a dunghill: and, I truſt, our ſenators are ſo far from wanting examples, to urge them to pay due honours to that divine art, that they would glory in being the firſt, who placed it on its proper level, and laid the foundations of its greatneſs.

The advocates for the Surgeons' bill are offended with thoſe, who allude to the humble origin of the Corporation. It was done with a view to check pride, and mortify vanity. One of the apologiſts for that bill compares the profeſſion to the Nile; which, from ſmall beginnings, at length ſwells into a mighty river. The parallel is, indeed, too exact. The ſimile runs upon all-fours. Surgery, according to its preſent eſtabliſhment in this country, not only reſembles the Nile in the ſmallneſs of its ſource, but in producing many a half-formed animal, and many a brainleſs monſter. It flows in a variety of ſtreams; and as it flows, too oft, alas!

it

it ſpreads a peſtilence, diſpenſes death, and fattens the land.

According to Bruce, the Nile riſes in Abyſſinia; according to the author of the *Dreſſing for Lord Thurlow*, many a ſurgeon, approved by the Court of Examiners, appears to derive his learning from the ſame ſource.

Mr. C. ſeems to think, that ſhaving the *head* was formerly conſidered as a *capital operation*; and barbers and ſurgeons as *chips of the ſame block*. Having thus, as a ſurgeon, jealous of the honour of his profeſſion, aſſerted the dignity of its origin, without the leaſt inconſiſtency he tries to depreciate the other branches of the medical art. He talks of the *inferior branches* of practice; and takes care to let us know, that ſurgery was eſtabliſhed in England by authority, fifty-nine years before phyſic.

Nevertheleſs, he does not abſolutely decide, whether phyſic or ſurgery deſerves the preference; but by affirming that many of the diſcoveries and improvements in phyſic have been owing to mere accident, while moſt of the improvements in ſurgery have originated in reaſoning *à priori*, and by quoting Celſus, to prove that the effects of ſurgery are more evident than thoſe of any other branch of the healing art, he plainly inſi-

nuates, that ſurgery is entitled to ſuperior honours. For this the College of Phyſicians will thank him.

But there is reaſon to believe, that he makes uſe of the expreſſion inferior branches of practice, in conformity with his grand deſign; in compliment to the mere ſurgeon, and in ſupport of the Surgeons' bill. By that expreſſion therefore we muſt underſtand pharmacy; and not only pharmacy, but midwifery alſo. For this the whole human race, and eſpecially the fair ſex, will thank him.

Mr. C. mentions, among other reaſons for applying to Parliament for a new act, that the Hall occupied by the Company was in want of repair; and that if the Company repaired it, advantage would be taken of it at the expiration of the leaſe, which has *only* fifty-five years to run. This obſervation deſerves no anſwer. If Mr. C. reaſoned no better at the Crown and Anchor, it is no wonder he made ſo few converts.

Mr. C. confeſſes, that in addition to 5,500*l.* the ſum given for the new houſe, an expenſe of 800*l.* will be incurred by the alterations neceſſary for a library, theatre, and diſſecting-room. This is a very *convenient* way to lighten a purſe that is too heavy.

After

After ſtating the deſign of the bill, Mr. C. expreſſes his opinion that the Legiſlature which refuſed to ſanction it before, will not refuſe to ſanction it at their next meeting. He has heard, we preſume, that ſenators are fallible men like himſelf; and therefore concludes, that, like himſelf, they cannot continue of the ſame mind on *two ſucceſſive meetings*.

Mr. C. as well as others, had a *complaint* againſt the bill; but *his complaint* was of the ephemeral kind. It is thought by ſome, that as the *quaking-fit* was ſo ſhort and ſo violent, the diſorder was an ague; and that it was cured by the uſual ſpecific; as they ſaw a little of the *Jeſuits' Tincture* about his lips.

Mr. C. informs us, that in the propoſed bill, the names of the officers of the Company were to be changed; but their power was to remain exactly the ſame. This is an unguarded aſſertion, in a perſon who attended the progreſs of the bill in Parliament, and muſt know, that beſides other acceſſions of power, their power of levying contributions was to be extended from ſeven to ten miles, and over all army and navy ſurgeons.

He then tells us, it was propoſed to ſubſtitute in its ſtead, a ſpeculative and untried ſcheme;

forgetting, that the bill was planned in the very ſpirit of innovation; and that its opponents were urged to a reſiſtance of it by a ſenſe of paſt injuries, and a dread of their accumulation, if the bill ſhould paſs into a law.

He next endeavours to ſhow the propriety of *our* enjoying the honour that has been ſolicited. Gentlemen who practiſe pharmacy, muſt have a ſtrange idea of honour, who wiſh to aggrandize thoſe who, from illiberal motives, exclude them from a participation of that honour. They muſt have a ſtrange idea of honour, who wiſh to ſwell the pride and power of men, who have long trampled them under foot. They muſt have a ſtrange idea of honour, who wiſh to enjoy the *honour* of being treated with *contempt*. By feeling ſo much intereſt in honours, not likely to fall to *his* ſhare, Mr. C. reminds us of an aſs carrying a chimney-ſweeper on a May-day; who thinks himſelf honoured by the baſtinado, becauſe his maſter is bedaubed with Dutch metal; and goes jogging on through the mire, exulting in his happy lot, and friſking his tail in triumph.

In order to ſhow the propriety of *our* enjoying the aforeſaid honour, Mr. C. propoſes to enter a little into the hiſtory of the Company; and briefly to conſider what ſurgery is, and what progreſs

greſs it has made. This he thinks the more neceſſary, on account of the remarks made by Lord Thurlow, in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament.

He juſtly obſerves, that "it is the object of a "ſcience, and not the ſtate of it, from which "we are to eſtimate its importance. The latter "depends on a variety of circumſtances, which "are ſubject to great uncertainty. The ſpirit of "the times, and the patronage of the public, "muſt concur with the genius and induſtry of "individuals, or few advances can be made in "a profeſſion like ſurgery; which, however "contemptible it may appear to thoſe who do "not underſtand it, opens on every path of "human inquiry; and calls for the cloſe and "perſevering reflection of a vigorous and com-"prehenſive mind."

He remarks, that both ſurgery and phyſic were formerly practiſed in France by prieſts: and that when the prieſts were forbidden to leave their convents and viſit patients, they were conſulted at home. He tells us, that the ſervants or friends of the ſick uſed to carry their urine and other excrements to them, with as good an account as they could give of the indiſpoſition. We cannot read this without recollecting, what excrements were carried before our own divines, during the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, in the form of

of a Surgeons' bill; and what erroneous and contradictory accounts were given by the bearers, concerning thoſe who had voided them: ſome thinking them dormant, others on the verge of diſſolution, others defunct. The public in general were of opinion, that the buſineſs was brought forward in a moſt indecent manner.

He tells us, that the clergy occaſionally intermeddled with the practice of ſurgery, till at length, by two decrees of the Popes, it was formally ſeparated from phyſic; the prieſts were forbidden to practiſe it; and the Univerſity of Paris refuſed to admit any ſtudent into the faculty of medicine, who did not abjure it. Thus it appears, that the ſeparation of thoſe two arts, between which there is ſuch a natural affinity, proceeded from Popiſh ignorance and ſuperſtition.

Mr. C. informs us, that a better and more juſt opinion of ſurgeons, ſeems to have been entertained at Vienna than at Paris; and as a proof of it, cites a clauſe from the ſtatute of the Emperor Frederick II. the founder of the academy at Vienna, by which the ſchool of Salernum obtained the power of granting degrees in medicine, about the middle of the thirteenth century. It is as follows: *Salubri etiam conſtitutione ſancimus, ut nullus chirurgicus ad practicam admittatur, niſi teſtimo-*

teſtimoniales literas afferat magiſtrorum in medicinali facultate legentium, quod per annum ſaltem in ea parte medicinæ ſtuduerit, quæ chirurgiæ inſtruit facultatem; et præſertim anatomiam humanorum corporum in ſcholis didicerit, et ſit in ea parte medicinæ perfectus, ſine qua nec inciſiones ſalubriter fieri poterunt, nec fracta curari. Bulæi Hiſt. Univ. Par. tom. iii. p. 158.

The world is obliged to Mr. C. for this quotation. It deſerves to be interwoven with the body of his work; and not caſt down into the notes, like refuſe matter. It is of more value than all the bye-laws ever paſſed at Surgeons' Hall. Its language is ſuch, as would not diſgrace the Auguſtan age. Its humane intention, and enlightened policy, would have done honour to Solon or Lycurgus. Yet this is the production of the thirteenth century. Let the eighteenth century, which calls the thirteenth a barbarous age; the eighteenth century, which leaves mankind miſerable victims to every deſpicable pretender, read this—and bluſh!

By this wiſe and ſalutary regulation it was ordained, that no perſon ſhould be admitted to the practice of ſurgery, who did not bring teſtimonials from the profeſſors, of his having ſtudied that branch of the healing art, and eſpecially anatomy, for one year at leaſt. Modern times

are

are more polite, and require no teſtimonials. There are many men admitted at Surgeons' Hall, who could not produce any teſtimonial of their ſtudy: they could as ſoon produce a receipt for the *philoſopher's ſtone*. Aſk them what is the practice of hoſpitals, and you might as well aſk them about the practice of *terra incognita*. Aſk them, why a proceſs of the ſcapula is called acromion? "An' they tell you that, they'll ne'er look you "in the face again. It would be Greek to "them."

If it is aſked, why members are admitted into the Corporation with ſuch facility? the following anecdote may ſerve as an anſwer. A perſon was examined for the office of ſurgeon's-mate, and rejected. Soon after he offered himſelf as candidate for the diploma, and was accepted. The firſt time he went with one guinea in hand; the laſt with many. When he angled for a mateſhip, his hook was almoſt bare; when he angled for the diploma, it was *well-baited*.

Purſuing the thread of his hiſtory of ſurgery, Mr. C. acquaints us, "that in the year 1311, an "edict was publiſhed in France, obliging all "ſurgeons to paſs examinations, and to puniſh "ſuch as practiſed without a licence. A college "was eſtabliſhed; and Charles V. while regent, "enrolled his name among the liſt of its mem-

"bers;

" bers; as did his ſucceſſor, Louis XIII. in " 1615, the year after he was declared of age by " the regent." Thus it appears, that the ſcience has heretofore been thought worthy, as I truſt it ever will, of every honour which kings themſelves can beſtow.

In the ninth year of the reign of Henry the Fifth, an act of Parliament paſſed in England, to puniſh thoſe who practiſed ſurgery without being approved by maſters of the art. But Mr. C. obſerves, that the ſurgeons of London did not apply for a patent of incorporation till the reign of Edward the Fourth.

He ſtates, that while beards were worn, ſhaving was an operation very rarely performed, and was actually conſidered as the buſineſs of a ſurgeon; being ſeldom needed, except in caſes of ſome accident which made it neceſſary to remove the hair from the injured part; or of thoſe diſeaſes in which conſiderable relief was expected from ſhaving the head, and making certain applications immediately to it. There is reaſon to believe, that prior to the reception of the faculty of medicine into the Univerſity of Paris, this was frequently performed by the clergy; afterwards by ſurgeons; and it was ſhortly confined to the lower claſs of them.

The barbers of London, Mr. C. remarks, were incorporated as ſurgeons, by Edward IV. in 1461; and *as ſurgeons*, and in no other capacity, they obtained their charter from that prince. This was the firſt incorporation ever eſtabliſhed in Great Britain, for the regulation of any branch of the medical profeſſion: *being erected fifty-nine years before the College of Phyſicians.* By this charter, power was given to the governors, to puniſh unlicenſed practitioners by fines, forfeitures, and impriſonments.

Mr. C. aſſerts, that, "beſides other cauſes "why ſurgery was of leſs importance than now, "lawleſs love had not engendered that fatal "poiſon, which has ſince overſpread ſo many "thouſands of her votaries with rottenneſs and "miſery." That lawleſs love engendered this poiſon, is, indeed, a vulgar notion; but we could not have expected it to be adopted by any profeſſional man of the preſent day; eſpecially by a member of the Corporation of Surgeons of London,—by the champion of the Court of Examiners,—by one who thinks the Corporation worthy of collegiate honours. The Court of Examiners have been cenſured for excluding apothecaries from their Court: I hope Mr. C. who is an apothecary, will be a little more cautious, leſt he ſhould furniſh them with a juſtification

cation for excluding apothecaries not only from the Court, but alſo from the Corporation.

If lawleſs love could engender that poiſon, the natives of the iſlands in the South Sea would have engendered it by their promiſcuous amours; and not have been beholden to Europeans for that favour. Let me adviſe Mr. Chevalier, before he goes forth again, as the knight-errant of the petty-tyrants of a Corporation, as the dictator of the ſenate, and as the oracle of wiſdom, to learn a little of the rudiments of his own profeſſion:

Hæ tibi erunt artes.

Mr. C. informs us, that the barbers and ſurgeons of Edinburgh were incorporated in 1505. The act of Parliament to prevent phyſicians or ſurgeons from practiſing in England, without an examination and licence, was enacted in 1512. We have the authority of Sir Thomas More, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, for affirming, that at this period, his infernal Majeſty had plenty of barber-ſurgeons in his dominions. This information may be uſeful to Mr. C. againſt he publiſhes another edition of his works; in order to make his hiſtory of ſurgery complete.

He informs us, that "the Royal Academy of "Surgery at Paris was inſtituted by Louis XV.

" in 1731. The number of ſurgeons in the " Company of Barber-Surgeons of London, at " the time of their ſeparation, was 114." It is difficult to diſcover the utility of the different publications in defence of the Surgeons' bill, unleſs it be, the humbling the pride of the members of the Corporation, by reminding them of *diſgraceful connexions.*

After paying ſeveral handſome and well-merited encomiums to ſome of thoſe ſurgeons, who by their joint labours have advanced the ſcience to its preſent ſtate in this kingdom, Mr. C. exclaims, " Who would have thought that Lon- " don, the centre of this favoured kingdom, " where ſurgery has been cultivated with ſuch " eminent advantage to mankind, ſhould have " been marked out as the preciſe ſpot, where " its profeſſors muſt be held up to mockery and " deriſion ?"

While I cheerfully join with Mr. C. in vindicating the honour of ſurgery, and in beſtowing a juſt tribute of applauſe on a Cheſelden, a Sharp, a Pott, a Hawkins, a Bromfield, and thoſe twin-ſtars, the Hunters, I by no means agree with him, that the Legiſlature would have been juſtified in ſanctioning the late Surgeons' bill, even if thoſe bright luminaries had ariſen again in one conſtellation, to ſolicit ſuch a meaſure. I truſt

truſt its narrow, ſelfiſh, and illiberal policy, its tyrannical ſpirit, and its pernicious tendency, have been ſufficiently expoſed. Of this its friends ſeem conſcious; or they would not make the preſs groan, for a third time, with unanſwered remarks; nor rake into the aſhes of the illuſtrious dead; nor introduce their names, to ſupport a drooping cauſe.

Mr. C. and the other friends of the bill, ought to recollect, that the oppoſition to that bill aroſe, not from an objection to the Society's enjoying collegiate honours, but to a ſelf-elected junto's exerciſing a deſpotic power. Mr. C. however endeavours to juſtify the whole bill; and ſeems to think that the members at large ought to be bound down with adamantine chains to perpetual ſlavery. His ſentiments are congenial with thoſe of the planters of Saint Domingo; who, when their agent in London had aſſerted, that "the public mind of the nation ſeems inclined to acknowledge, that the continuation of ſlavery is odious and uſeleſs," publiſhed an advertiſement in the London papers, to the following effect—"The inhabitants, juſtly apprehending, that a longer ſilence on their part reſpecting ſuch *dangerous doctrines*, might be conſtrued into an implicit avowal of them, and alarmed at the impreſſions which their not noticing them might give riſe to, in conſequence

" quence of the confidence of which Mr. Ma-
" louet avails himſelf, are now eager to ſtep for-
" ward, to diſavow them, and in order more
" formally to do ſo," &c. Should the Surgeons' bill again experience the ſame fate, as I truſt it will, it may be ſent to Saint Domingo. It is an exotic, and not likely to flouriſh in our ſoil.

Mr. C. tells us, that the ſocieties of ſurgeons in Edinburgh and Dublin have been incorporated as colleges, without any heſitation. What does this prove? That our Legiſlators were ready to confer a juſt rank on the liberal profeſſors of the ſcience; while they rejected with indignation, the ſelf-intereſted propoſals of an odious and unjuſt uſurpation and monopoly.

Mr. C. tells us, that it is impoſſible to maintain the vigour and perfection of any ſcience, without holding out encouragements for men of talents and property to devote themſelves to it; and that theſe encouragements are rank and fortune; Mr. C. is right in ſtating, that a man who devotes himſelf to ſurgery, ſhould have good property as well as talents. But it will be very little conſolation to ſuch a man to know, that at preſent no encouragements are held out to him in this kingdom, to devote his talents to that ſcience. Whatever beneficent deſigns the Legiſlature has formerly entertained, whatever ſchemes

it

it has planned for the promotion of the art, its favour has been diverted from its proper channel by the domineering few, and abſorbed in their own vortex.

It is well known, that no incitements are held forth, no rewards are offered, no remuneration is propoſed, for men of talents and fortune, who exert thoſe talents, and expend that fortune, in ſurgical inquiries. After waſting the flower of his youth, and a conſiderable part of his fortune, in the acquiſition of uſeful ſcience, after a claſſical education, and a patient and laborious reſearch after profeſſional knowledge, in books, in lectures, in anatomical purſuits, in the melancholy abodes of the ſick and lame, the dying and the dead,—after the dangerous and loathſome taſk of diſſecting putrid and infectious bodies,—he is not entitled to any prompt and adequate recompence for his attendance and ſkill, like the phyſician; but, when the cure is performed, thinks himſelf fortunate if he is not totally defrauded. A man of ſmall fortune who has devoted himſelf to this profeſſion, may thank his ſtars, if, after following the practice twenty years, he does not ſit down poorer than he was when he begun. How unlike is this to the fate of thoſe, who devote their talents to other learned profeſſions!

But

But what marks out the ſurgeon as deſtined to the moſt ſevere lot, and as the victim of peculiar vengeance, is, that he muſt either ſubmit to conſume, not only his time, his labour, and perhaps his health, but alſo his fortune, in the ſervice of the public, with a very precarious proſpect of a juſt return. Rank and fortune, and the patronage of the public, are allowed by Mr. C. to be neceſſary encouragements towards maintaining the vigour and perfection of the ſcience. If a young ſurgeon, of moderate fortune and connexions, refrains from practiſing pharmacy, he muſt ſtarve: if he practiſe pharmacy, he will forfeit all chance of preferment in the Corporation, and be degraded, for ſupporting himſelf in an honourable way, and rendering himſelf uſeful. Thus Mr. C. pleads for the neceſſity of the uſual encouragements, rank and fortune, for the ſelf-elected few; but denies thoſe advantages to the members of the Corporation at large. They are doomed to ſpend their fortune, or forfeit their rank, by a moſt iniquitous and impolitic bye-law; which operates like a mildew; checking the cultivation of their talents, blighting the fruits of their genius, diſappointing all their expectations, and blaſting all their hopes.

In anſwer to theſe obſervations and arguments, Mr. C. may produce a few inſtances of perſons

educated in pharmacy, who have become eminent as ſurgeons. Let him look a little deeper than the ſurface, and he will ſee, that they owe their riſe to a ſurgeoncy *purchaſed* in the *Guards*, or in an *hoſpital*, to an acceſſion of fortune, or to patronage:

> Haud facilè emergunt, quorum virtutibus obſtat
> Res anguſta domi.

Mr. C. tells us, that ſurgery and phyſic were always *blended*, in the practice of thoſe famous men of old, ſeveral of whom were deified and adored by a people, ignorant, it is true, of religion, *but very well acquainted with the policy of nations:* yet, with an unaccountable inconſiſtency he gives his opinion, that however neceſſary it may be, that ſome ſurgeons in the military and naval departments, and in other ſituations, ſhould act in a twofold capacity, this is a neceſſity ariſing from contingent circumſtances, and not at all from the nature of the profeſſion. When we read ſuch contradictory ſentiments, we cannot help lamenting, that any circumſtances ſhould render it neceſſary for *Mr. Chevalier* to act *in a twofold capacity*. It is rather unfortunate, when a perſon reduces us to ſuch a dilemma, that we cannot acquit him of duplicity, without bringing an impeachment againſt his underſtanding.

After obſerving, that thoſe who practiſed phyſic and ſurgery in conjunction, were deified and adored by a people well acquainted with the policy of nations, and after juſtly ridiculing the doctrine maintained in the time of Queen Elizabeth, that if a man had but a boil on his noſe, he muſt have a ſurgeon to apply a plaſter, a phyſician to order him a purge, and an apothecary to put it up; greatly TO THE RELIEF OF HIS POCKET, and the good order of the profeſſion, he contends, that "the two branches ought to be "cultivated diſtinctly in a large metropolis; "where the profeſſors of each can be fully em-"ployed, and ſufficiently rewarded." This doctrine merits the grateful acknowledgments of every inhabitant of the metropolis; as it will tend greatly to *the relief of his pocket, and the good order of the profeſſion.*

Thus Mr. C. recommends the ſeparation of the two branches in his book, but combines them in his practice. He is ſo great an advocate for ſevering the kindred arts, and knows ſo much of the perſons to whom we are indebted for improvements in ſurgery as to aſſert, that the proſperity and improvement of the art depend immediately on thoſe who cultivate it ſeparately, and alone. Thus it appears, that little improvement in the art is to be expected from Mr. Chevalier.

But

But the medical world in general have not ſo ſoon forgotten the names of William Hunter, Hewſon, Monro, Cruikſhank, White, Kirkland, Gooch, Wilmer, and Bell. Theſe, and many others, who have united different branches of the profeſſion, have, by their joint labours, by their extenſive erudition, by their medical as well as chirurgical knowledge, improved the art at leaſt as much as the preſent Court of Examiners, whom Mr. C. is inclined to deify and adore, as the *alpha* and *omega* of the profeſſion.

The medical world in general have not forgotten the name of Allanſon; to whom ſurgery is much more indebted for its improvement and proſperity, than to the whole Court of Examiners put together. To him we are indebted for the practice of healing by the firſt intention, in capital operations. The value of this improvement, on account of the pain it prevents, and the lives it ſaves, is ineſtimable. The flap-operation for the leg, when performed after his manner, preſerves the uſe of the knee, and ſuch eaſe in walking, that ſome who have undergone that operation, declare, that when they walk, they forget they have loſt their leg.

This operation, ſo important and ſo beneficial, the gentlemen on whom alone Mr. C. ſuppoſes the improvement and proſperity of the art to de-

pend, were the laſt to adopt. One of them attempted it in vain; and was obliged to finiſh the bungling job by a ſecond operation; and to ſacrifice the flap by the circular inciſion. From that time he decried the operation; and, being a teacher of ſurgery, his opinion had extenſive influence. Another of the ſurgeons, on whom, according to Mr. C. the improvement and proſperity of the art depend, when, converſing on the ſubject, he betrayed ignorance of this improvement, was told he might ſee it deſcribed in Allanſon's book on Amputation: to which he replied, with a degree of ſelf-ſufficiency peculiarly his own, "I never read ſuch books as "thoſe."

Mr. C. declares a knowledge of the theory of medicine to be the true foundation of good ſurgical practice: yet with an inconſiſtency worthy of himſelf, affirms that the improvement and proſperity of the art depend immediately on thoſe who cultivate it ſeparately and alone. Poſſibly Mr. C. may forget, that the diſcoveries of anatomiſts, and phyſicians, the improvements in the theory and practice of phyſic, the diſcovery of the lymphatics, and of the circulation, which were not made by perſons who confined themſelves to the practice of ſurgery, have had *ſome ſmall ſhare* in improving that art. Mr. C. thinks moſt of the improvements in ſurgery have ariſen from

from reaſoning *à priori*. Perhaps he thinks no man is capable of reaſoning *à priori* but a mechanic.

Speaking of the ſtate of ſurgery in this kingdom, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Mr. C. tells us, that the ſurgeons, not only then, but for a long time after, were inattentive to that true foundation of good ſurgical practice, a knowledge of the theory of medicine; and this neglect led them to admit ſeveral, perhaps many, *(riſum teneatis)*, into their number, who were extremely ignorant in that reſpect, and who were merely acquainted with the general anatomy of the body, and the mechanical performance of ſuch operations as were then in uſe. Alas! we have known too many admitted of late years, who knew no more of anatomy than what they had learned from books, nor of the theory of medicine than what they had learned by weighing jalap, and pounding horſe-balls:—men who had neither attended hoſpitals or lectures, nor had a claſſical education, nor been under the tuition of any ſurgeon, or even apothecary. To ſuch men we have known the lives of our brave ſeamen entruſted. To ſuch men, as well as to men and women midwives, who in general are not examined, horrid to relate! have we known too many of the female ſex, and their helpleſs and innocent offſpring, fall victims. This calls aloud for redreſs.

It

It is but juſtice to remind our Legiſlators, that there is no law now in force to prevent men or women from practiſing midwifery without an examination. The College of Phyſicians have, indeed, inſtituted a new order of practitioners, called licentiates in midwifery. Into this order they admit ſuch as voluntarily offer themſelves, provided they paſs their examination. This ceremony is rather too ridiculous to be paſſed over without ſome animadverſion. Thoſe who profeſs the practice, are examined by thoſe who do not.

This order of merit is ſaid to have been planned out of compliment to a very celebrated profeſſor of the obſtetrical art, by a phyſician equally celebrated: and perhaps it is the only abſurd thing ever propoſed by him.—What would our Engliſh Ariſtophanes have ſaid, if he had ſeen Doctor Laſt turned Examiner? *Ne ſutor ultra crepidam.*

To heighten this farce, they refuſe to examine thoſe who practiſe pharmacy, and to inveſt them with this dignity. It is their place to ſhow, that this diſtinction is reconcilable to a regard for the public welfare; which ought to ſuperſede all other conſiderations; and that it is not the offſpring of empty pride. Poſſibly they were willing to keep the Court of Examiners of the Corporation

tion of Surgeons in countenance. "The Lord "created medicines out of the earth; wherefore "a wiſe man will not abhor them." There is great reaſon to believe, that this new order was propoſed by partiality, adopted by inadvertence, and will be aboliſhed by reflection.

I can poſitively aver, that ſurgeons in general are not examined in medicine; which is, as Mr. C. juſtly obſerves, the true foundation, or rather an eſſential part of the true foundation, of good ſurgical practice. I have heard a gentleman, to whoſe opinion, in general, I pay great deference, aſſert, that a good anatomiſt is a good ſurgeon, and that it had been ſo determined by the Examiners of the Company: forgetting, that medical knowledge may frequently ſuperſede the neceſſity of operations; and that prevention is better than cure. Beſides, without a proper knowledge of diagnoſtics and prognoſtics, a man cannot be qualified to recommend an operation; and, without having ſeen practice, he cannot be qualified to perform it.

That improper members have been admitted, and military ſurgeons approved, by the Court of Examiners, is certain: but it is rather a delicate point for their defenders to touch on. I venture to affirm, that, making allowance for the improved ſtate of the profeſſion, more ignorant perſons

perſons have been licenſed to practiſe within the laſt thirty years, than at any former period.

A circumſtance lately occurred, which proves how dangerous it is to ſuffer ſuch perſons to practiſe. A ſurgeon who had paſſed his examination at the Hall, was willing to prove his ſkill in midwifery. After drenching his patient with wine, without producing any effect, but fever, he ſent for a more experienced practitioner, whom he deſired to bring his inſtruments, as, he ſaid, nothing elſe could be of uſe. Luckily he had not his own by him; otherwiſe the life of the patient would in all probability have been ſacrificed. The perſon who was called in ſoon perceived that inſtruments were unneceſſary; and that Nature was equal to the taſk. Could thoſe who have it in their power to rectify this evil, be witneſſes to one of thoſe diſtreſſing ſcenes, where women in ſuch a ſituation have been mal-treated, the grievance would not long remain unredreſſed. In the preſent inſtance, in addition to the ſpecimen of ignorance already produced, the ſame gentleman recommended fruit for his patient, a few hours after delivery; and, a ſhort time after, plenty of animal food and wine. Luckily, his advice was not followed.

Another member of the Corporation, being called to a perſon labouring under a violent inflammation

flammation of the bowels, neither bled him nor directed a clyſter. It is ſcarcely neceſſary to add, that the patient fell a ſacrifice to his ignorance; and left the widow and fatherleſs to deplore the want of ſome law in this country, to prevent miſerable charlatans from committing their ravages with impunity. To neglect impoſing ſome ſalutary reſtraint on ſuch pretenders, is to ſanction the murders they commit. This man is ſaid to have been a *diſſector*; and might therefore ſhine in his examination at Surgeons' Hall; but if he goes on at this rate, he will ſoon *diſſect* all thoſe, who are ſo unfortunate as to fall under his hands.

Since Mr. C. and other advocates for the late bill of infamous memory, boldly challenge excluſive honours and rewards for the *mere* ſurgeon, whom it is now the faſhion to call a *pure* ſurgeon, and inſinuate that the proſperity and improvement of the profeſſion depend on him alone, it becomes neceſſary to correct that miſrepreſentation.

Many valuable and important diſcoveries and improvements have been made in ſurgery by profeſſed anatomiſts, and others, who practiſed more than one branch of the profeſſion. Whatever may be the merits of the preſent members of the Corporation, the art itſelf is advanced to a de-

gree of perfection before unknown. Exclusive of the improvements made by *surgeons*, who combine other branches of the medical profession with their own, the discoveries made by Haller, and other physicians, are of no small importance; and that of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, is certainly of the first magnitude. The merit of discovering that the lacteals and other lymphatics, compose one grand absorbent system, whether it is due to Dr. Hunter or to Dr. Monro, militates against Mr. C.'s argument, and confirms what he quotes from Dr. Gregory; a passage which I shall translate. "The sacred stream of Science, "which we now contemplate and venerate; "wonderful and immense! derived from a small "and unknown fountain, flows from age to "age: at first a rivulet, it increases gradually "to a mighty flood, by the many but slow additions which it receives, and by the conflux "of innumerable rills on every side; either of "which alone, compared with so great a bulk, "seems to contribute scarce any thing to its "magnitude; but all together, by the accumulation of all their waters, form at length the "vast and delightful stream that we behold; "refreshing the happy fields through which it "flows, and rendering them fruitful."

When Mr. C. wishes to prove that physic and surgery ought to be separated, he tells us, those who

who practiſed them together, were deified and adored by a people well acquainted with the policy of nations. When he wiſhes to augment the power of the Governors of the Corporation, he admits, they have abuſed the power with which they were before entruſted. When he wiſhes to convince us, that no improvements are to be expected but from particular parts, he tells us that improvements are derived from all quarters. When he gives us Gregory's deſcription of the ſtream of Science, he gives us an opportunity of turning the ſtream of argument againſt himſelf. In ſhort, he wages war like a Dutchman; and furniſhes his opponents with arms.

Since Mr. C. declares a knowledge of the theory of medicine to be the true foundation of good ſurgical practice, I beg to know of him, what theory of medicine inculcates a continuance of repellents for more than a fortnight, in an inflammation of the breaſt, attended with increaſing tenſion and pain? A perſon labouring under ſuch a complaint, and ſo treated, applied to me. The induration of the tumor, and the rigidity of the integuments, were ſuch as I never witneſſed on any ſimilar occaſion. The patient complained much of the bad management of the caſe, and expreſſed a fear, it might become cancerous. She told me that a gentleman had attended her above a fortnight; and had applied nothing but

a cooling kind of water; from which ſhe was ſo far from receiving any benefit, that ſhe daily grew worſe. I directed a linſeed poultice, by the emollient quality of which, the abſceſs burſt the next day; and after ſome time, by the continuance of the ſame application, ſhe perfectly recovered.

As Mr. C. is fond of quoting paſſages to prove what every ſurgeon knows, I will quote one or two from Bell's Syſtem of Surgery, to prove what it is a ſhame for any ſurgeon not to know. Speaking of an inflammation of the breaſt, he ſays, "In the firſt ſtages of the diſorder, diſcuſſion of the tumor ſhould always be attempted, while it would be in vain, and highly improper, to adviſe it when the ſwelling has been of ſuch duration, as to have *any tendency to ſuppurate.*" The ſame author enumerates the different external remedies which, in his opinion, are moſt to be truſted. He then informs us, that by theſe, "and by the reſt of the treatment adviſed above, almoſt every tumor of this kind will be removed; *unleſs the inflammation has been of long continuance before the remedies are employed:* in which caſe, *if the pain and tenſion are conſiderable,* it will *always* be more adviſable *to endeavour to bring the tumor to ſuppurate, than to attempt any other method of cure.*"

Since

Since Mr. C. has finiſhed his Defence of the Surgeons' bill, and may be ſuppoſed to have done reading the hiſtories of the different univerſities, and other learned ſocieties of Europe; ſince he has finiſhed his *hiſtory of ſurgery*, I would adviſe him to ſtudy the firſt elements of its *practice*. He will be better qualified to judge of the merit of other practitioners, when he is a little more initiated in the art: and his opinion concerning the abilities of other practitioners will have more weight, when he has eſtabliſhed the reputation of his own.

As a conſiderable part of Mr. C.'s pamphlet is ſo totally irrelevant to the point in queſtion, we cannot read it without regretting that any profeſſional man ſhould have waſted ſo much time. Beſides other frivolous and inſignificant inquiries which he made, he informs us, that after a long and tedious reſearch, he has not been able to find, "that any ſurgeon was ſtatedly appointed "to attend the King's perſon, before the year "1360, when Richard de Wy was made ſur-"geon to Edward III." How much better would Mr. C. have been employed, if he had been reading about the virtues of a *linſeed poultice!*

It is no new thing, for ignorant pretenders to depreciate and decry the talents of ſuch as know more

more than themſelves. The ſarcaſtic and illiberal reflections thrown out at Surgeons' Hall by ſelf-elected cenſors, who have undergone no teſt of ability for that office, might be borne. The taunts of the framers and defenders of the Surgeons' bill might be endured with patience: their venom carries with it an antidote. But when the profeſſional characters of individuals are attacked, in order to prejudice the public mind, and to influence the deciſion of the Legiſlature, however we may ſcorn the calumny as far as regards our private intereſt; yet as members of ſociety, and all equally bound to promote the cauſe of truth and juſtice, and of the public good, to the utmoſt of our power; a diſcloſure of facts is loudly called for, and ſilence would now become a crime.

Our great tranſlator of Homer quotes a paſſage from Plutarch to ſhow, that in certain caſes a perſon may be permitted to ſpeak of his own actions, without being guilty of oſtentation: one inſtance is, "*where he is injurioufly dealt* "*with.*" According to this maxim, no perſons have a greater right to ſpeak of themſelves, than the majority of the members of the Corporation of Surgeons; for none have been treated with greater injuſtice.

Vanity

Vanity would never have induced the author of theſe remarks to publiſh the following account of certain caſes which have fallen under his care, or under his obſervation; and, together with a number of others which he could eaſily relate, have long ago convinced him, that the mere ſurgeon is not poſſeſſed of the infallibility, or even ſuperiority aſcribed to him by the prejudiced and ignorant. As a proof of this, no one of the caſes has ever been publiſhed till now: nor would they have been publiſhed now, had they not been extorted by the moſt illiberal inſinuations, and the moſt obſtinate perſeverance in injuſtice.

A coachman, after an uncommon expoſure to cold, had a very conſiderable ſwelling of the glands of the neck, followed by ſuppuration. When the abſceſs burſt, the diſcharge of matter was profuſe. In conſequence of ulceration, an alarming hæmorrhage took place; on which account I was ſent for. While I was applying the remedy for this ſymptom, he informed me, he had a letter to admit him into the Lock Hoſpital; and had ſeen the ſurgeon, who allowed he was a fit object for the charity; and that he was to be received into the houſe as ſoon as there was a vacancy.

Upon

Upon inquiring into the particulars of the caſe, I was convinced the ſurgeon of the Lock, (not one of the preſent ſurgeons of that inſtitution), had miſtaken the nature of his diſeaſe. The inguinal, as well as the cervical glands, were affected: beſides which, he had a tumor on the external part of the leg; a violent cough, and intolerable rheumatic pains. After a minute inveſtigation, and mature conſideration, of all the circumſtances of the diſorder, I was confident it was not of a venereal kind. He had not been affected with any of the original ſymptoms of that diſeaſe; nor with blotches on the ſkin; although he had now been ill above a year and half. Another argument to confirm this opinion was, that his wife, and child of a few months old, were in perfect health.

With ſuch glaring proofs, that the diſeaſe was of a ſcrophulous nature, I diſſuaded him from going into the Hoſpital; where he was to have been ſalivated: a proceſs, which in a perſon much emaciated, affected with hectic ſymptoms, and labouring under extreme debility, promiſed nothing but a ſpeedy period to his exiſtence. I therefore undertook to attend him; and muſt beg leave to obſerve, I could have no intereſt in that offer, as he was at this time partly ſupported by Saint George's pariſh, and partly by charity. The ulcerations were ſo deep, and extenſive,

that all the muſcles of the anterior part, and ſides of the neck, were perfectly denuded, and partly deſtroyed, down to the ſhoulders. The diſcharge was fetid and exceſſive. There were a number of ſinuſes, which would not heal till they were opened. At firſt, it required full three quarters of an hour every day to dreſs him; and for the ſpace of ſix months, at leaſt half an hour. From that period, I ſometimes left him to be dreſſed by others, and only called once in two or three days. It was above two years after I firſt attended him, before the ſores of the neck were healed: and I had little reaſon to ſuppoſe it poſſible, that he could live till they were healed.

In the mean time all the complaints abated, excepting the abſceſs of the leg. That had increaſed to a conſiderable ſize. As his former means of ſupport were in a great meaſure withdrawn, and he was now ſcarce able to walk, and required a nurſe to attend him, and other neceſſaries, which his ſituation could not afford; I adviſed him to procure a letter, and go into Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital. He accordingly procured a letter, and applied for admiſſion; but was told by the ſurgeon, whoſe turn it was to admit patients, that his was not a proper caſe for the Hoſpital; that it would be dangerous to

open the tumor, and when it broke he muſt die.

Notwithſtanding I ſaw no reaſon to apprehend any immediate danger from opening this abſceſs, as it did not lie in the way of any large artery, being very prominent, yet I was aware what cenſure I ſhould incur, if the event proved unfavourable. After ſome time, however, having repeatedly explained to him that he could not poſſibly mend, but muſt unavoidably grow worſe, from delay; and knowing that the matter lay under a faſcia, not likely to burſt ſpontaneouſly, till the limb was rendered incurable; and having his implicit aſſent, and even requeſt, that I would act as I thought proper, I opened the tumor, and diſcharged a vaſt quantity of thin pus. No alarming ſymptom occurred during a fortnight; at the end of which time, he caught a violent cold, which occaſioned conſiderable inflammation and tumefaction of the leg. He now reſided at Iſlington, for the ſake of the air; and had for ſome time earned his ſubſiſtence by carrying out ſmall parcels from an inn. As by the change in his complaint he was rendered unable to ſupport himſelf, and was at too great a diſtance for me to attend him, I once more adviſed him to go into an hoſpital. He accordingly went into Guy's Hoſpital; where the ſurgeon, under whoſe care he happened to be, propoſed ampu-

amputation; but was over-ruled by another, more advanced in years. After a ſhort time, he propoſed to lay open the whole fibula by an inciſion; declaring the patient would not recover, till that bone came entirely away; but it might not come away for ſix or eight months.

Terrified at the thoughts of ſo dreadful, and as he conceived, ſo unneceſſary an operation, the patient aſked leave to go out; and came to conſult me on the occaſion. He was again much emaciated; and only a ſmall part of the fibula ſeemed to be carious; which made the propoſal appear the more extraordinary. I adviſed him not to conſent to the operation: upon which he informed me, that unleſs he ſubmitted to it, the ſurgeon told him, he muſt leave the hoſpital in the courſe of a few days. I comforted him, by declaring, that no inciſion was neceſſary to be made; as only a ſmall part of the bone was diſeaſed; and, whenever it exfoliated, it would either come away of its own accord, or might eaſily be extracted by any ſurgeon who lived in his neighbourhood.

This advice he followed; and called on me twice or three times, with ſmall exfoliations of the fibula; during which the leg regularly mended; and, after a few months, he perfectly regained his priſtine health and vigour.

I have had the beſt opportunity of ſeeing the permanency of this cure. The ſurgeon who formed an unfavourable prognoſtic, was one celebrated for acumen of judgment; and perhaps unequalled in this or any other country. The ſurgeon who thrice reſcued this devoted victim from the jaws of deſtruction, was an obſcure practitioner, and a *ſtudent in bell-metal mortars*; not one of thoſe, on whom *the improvement and proſperity of the art immediately depend.*

Were a ſtrict and impartial inquiry made into the comparative talents of medical men, it would be found, that external appearances, ſituation, and rank in life, which are the gifts of fortune, prejudice the mind; and command more reſpect than intrinſic merit; of which, as Mr. Warren juſtly obſerved in the Houſe of Lords, mankind are not proper judges. In forming an eſtimate of this ſort, the particulars of the different caſes which have fallen under the care of a practitioner muſt be inveſtigated; his treatment of thoſe caſes conſidered; and his reaſons for ſuch treatment. The ſucceſs of his practice ought to be inquired into; as a probable criterion of his ſkill, and attention. It is not from the multitude of operations a man has performed, that we can judge of his ability: ſurgeons ought not to be eſtimated, like Indians, by their number of ſcalps.

Had

Had the authors of the Surgeons' bill, and their ſycophants, obſerved a little more moderation, and been content with ſounding their own praiſe, without calumniating thoſe who are ſomething more than *ſimple* ſurgeons, the ſame charity which taught us forbearance before, would teach it ſtill. But when, emboldened by non-reſiſtance, they proclaim themſelves the fountains of all knowledge, and all others as unworthy to follow in their train, juſtice compels us to check their preſumption. Former members of the Court of Examiners have, indeed, reflected luſtre on that ſphere: but, alas! thoſe bright luminaries are ſet; and Science now ſeems to look on Surgeons' Hall with a malign aſpect,

> "As when the ſun, new-ris'n,
> Looks thro' the horizontal, miſty ſphere,
> Shorn of his beams, or from behind the moon,
> In dull eclipſe, diſaſtrous twilight ſheds
> On half the nations; and with fear of change
> Perplexes monarchs."

Here I may be ſuſpected, like the author of the foregoing lines, to allude to *royalty in diſgrace*. The monarchs of Surgeons' Hall, are, indeed, perplexed, and fear a change. The rod of their tyranny is broken by their own violence; their glories are eclipſed; and the throne of their deſpotiſm totters to its foundation.

We

We are aſſured by Mr. C. that the merits of the Colleges of Edinburgh, and Dublin, cannot be greater than thoſe of the Governors of the Corporation of Surgeons of London. If ſo, they will bear the touchſtone of examination; and emerge more bright from every trying ordeal, like gold from the refining fire.

I ſhall add a few more caſes to that which I before adduced; to prove at once, that the deſerts of examining and hoſpital ſurgeons have been over-rated, and thoſe of other ſurgeons depreciated in proportion.

A woman who had been for ſome time affected with a ſlight peripneumony, applied to me on account of a large tumor which made its appearance in the lumbar region. On account of the importance of the caſe, I wiſhed her to conſult another ſurgeon with me. She therefore conſulted a gentleman before alluded to, whoſe opinion was held in the higheſt eſtimation; an hoſpital ſurgeon, and a member of the Court of Examiners. He recommended a plaſter; and adviſed that the tumor ſhould be left to break ſpontaneouſly: adding, that although it might not break for ſix months, he would not wiſh it to be opened. When the abſceſs broke, I met him again in conſultation; and although it had broken at a conſiderable diſtance from the bottom,

tom, ſo that there was no depending drain, he would not conſent to any other alteration, but a trifling enlargement of the orifice.

With this management, I ſcarcely need inform any experienced practitioner, that the patient grew worſe and worſe. I explained my opinion to Sir William Fordyce; who at the ſame time attended as a phyſician. He told me, that his ideas accorded with mine; that the abſceſs ought to have been opened at the moſt depending part: that he had a diſpute with the ſame gentleman, about a ſimilar caſe, ſome years before, but could not carry his point, and his patient had died. Sir William had been a practitioner of pharmacy, *a ſtudent in bell-metal mortars*, as well as a ſurgeon; and therefore could not be ſuppoſed to underſtand ſurgery ſo well, as one who underſtood nothing elſe.

I was obliged to ſubmit. The conſequence was, that from the lodgment of matter, an abſceſs at length took place in the other loin; and the diſeaſe proved fatal.

Some time after, I attended a gentleman with a complaint of the ſame kind; but much worſe, he being far more reduced. In this caſe, I was ſo fortunate as to meet in conſultation another ſurgeon; one of conſiderable eminence; who is

ſtill

ſtill living, but retired. We agreed that the matter ought to be diſcharged. This ſurgeon told the patient, that he would recommend ſomething to be applied to the tumor, previous to my making the puncture, which would deaden the part, and *prevent him from feeling any pain.* My readers will be ſurpriſed to hear, that this was a cauſtic. I was then not ſufficiently eſtabliſhed in buſineſs or reputation, to overcome the prejudice in favour of ſo reſpectable a practitioner. However, I told the patient my own opinion; which he found true. I was alſo adviſed by the ſame gentleman, to open the abſceſs about two days after the application of the cauſtic; and to uſe a canula, to keep the orifice open, and promote the diſcharge.

This gentleman never ſaw the patient again. I purſued his plan. The cauſtic gave exquiſite pain for four hours. Two days after, I opened the abſceſs by puncturing the eſchar; and diſcharged a pint and a half of matter. As ſoon as the orifice was in a ſtate to admit of it, I introduced the canula: but, though ſhort, it injured the internal parts ſo much, and occaſiond ſuch violent pain in walking, that I determined to leave it off. No one can blame me for trying the *cauſtic* as an *anodyne*, and the *canula* inſtead of *a tent:* they were recommended by one of thoſe ſurgeons, *on whom*

the

the improvement and proſperity of the art immediately depend.

Inſtead of the canula, I introduced a tent, over which I laid a doſſil of lint; and covered the whole with a large plaſter; in order to allow and encourage the diſcharge of matter, and exclude the air.

On the ſecond day, about half a pint of matter was evacuated; and for a month or more, about four ounces. He then went into the country, for the ſake of a pure air; and in a few months was ſo far recovered, as to be able to walk or ride without pain. The diſcharge gradually leſſened; and, in about fifteen months, totally ceaſed. For above ten years he has continued free from the complaint; and is at preſent in perfect health. This was a much more unpromiſing caſe than the former: the former had not been attended with much pain; but this patient had ſuffered excruciating tortures. He was much more emaciated; and appeared to be in a decline; ſo that little hope was entertained of his recovery.

A man who had cut his finger with glaſs, applied immediately to a ſurgeon; on whom he waited, by direction, every morning. A conſiderable degree of inflammation, and ſuppuration

in different parts of the hand, took place. The patient was ordered to foment and poultice the hand; but his ſurgeon, who is one of thoſe *on whom the improvement and proſperity of the art immediately depend,* told him not to preſs out the matter on any account. This gentleman happening to be ſo indiſpoſed that he could not attend to buſineſs, the patient came to me; and informed me, that by the courſe he had purſued, he had regularly grown worſe for three weeks. I could not help expreſſing my ſurpriſe, that any practitioner ſhould treat ſuch a caſe in ſuch a manner; and leave it to nature, or, in other words, to neglect. In order to facilitate the diſcharge of matter, I found it neceſſary to dilate a ſmall orifice communicating with the original wound; and to preſs out the contents of the abſceſs twice a day. By this management, that part of the hand mended daily. I was ſoon after obliged to open another ſinus, where an abſceſs had burſt: but he objected to my opening a third, till he was convinced, by a long trial, that it was indiſpenſably neceſſary. He now aſcribes the ſalvation of his hand, to the ſore throat which ſeized the practitioner to whom he firſt applied; and thinks his greateſt eſcape was that from his ſurgeon. This gentleman, who is ſo fortunate as to poſſeſs that greateſt merit, good connexions, is ſince choſen an hoſpital ſurgeon; where, as

Mr.

Mr. Chevalier juſtly obſerves, he will have an ample ſcope for his incomparable practice.

I attended another patient who had an abſceſs in the hand, with another ſurgeon, who alſo confines his practice to ſurgery alone. I was much ſurpriſed, that during the courſe of ſeveral weeks, notwithſtanding the quantity of matter contained in the hand was very great, and the ſkin ſo thickened and hardened, that nature refuſed a vent, this gentleman would never agree to making a proper opening. At length, when the caſe appeared almoſt deſperate, he conſented to a ſmall inciſion. I expreſſed a wiſh, that it had been done before. He replied, that there certainly was great miſchief in the hand now; but that I ought to have been the beſt judge, as I ſaw the caſe moſt frequently. The fact is, that this gentleman had ſeen it often in every ſtage; but had laid it down as a rule not to be departed from, that only a puncture was to be made in any caſe of this kind. While this caſe was under my care, being much alarmed as to the event, I conſulted two other eminent medical men concerning it. One, who practiſes only ſurgery, diſapproved of an opening; the other, who had long ſerved in the army, firſt as ſurgeon, and afterwards as phyſician, and on whom his Majeſty has ſince conferred diſtinguiſhed honours, coincided in opinion with me, that there was no

danger in opening the abſceſs freely. At length I divided two ſinuſes; and the hand was perfectly healed in a week. Since that time, I have met with a number of inſtances of abſceſſes in the hand and arm, in all of which, the cure was accompliſhed in the moſt ſpeedy manner, where no lodgment of matter was allowed; and I have never yet ſeen a ſingle inſtance, where the leaſt injury has enſued from opening a ſinus. This convinces me, that all the miſchief attributed to the admiſſion of air, except in the burſæ mucoſæ, the joints, and the large cavities, ariſes from the neglect of performing the operation in due time.

I was conſulted about an abſceſs, as large as an egg, ſituated near the tendon of the *rectus cruris* muſcle, in a boy four years of age. Though I entertained no doubt of the propriety of letting out the matter, yet being aware of the uncertainty of the event, eſpecially as the boy was ſcrophulous, I deſired the parents to aſk the opinion of a very eminent ſurgeon, who was attending a patient in the ſame houſe. This gentleman, who was a very celebrated anatomiſt, was not always equally correct in his chirurgical ideas; though he practiſed no branch of the medical profeſſion but ſurgery. He adviſed that the child ſhould be taken to the ſea, and bathed; but that the abſceſs ſhould not be opened.

As

As it was not convenient for the friends of the child to go to the ſalt water with him, and the abſceſs increaſed rapidly, threatening his limb, and even his life, I expreſſed my opinion, that there was a much greater chance of cure from opening the abſceſs, than from bathing in the ſea; that the delay of the operation was extremely dangerous; and, if it appeared neceſſary, he might be bathed in the ſea at any future time.

To this opinion his parents readily aſſented. A ſeton was paſſed through the tumor, and retained a few days; when the degree of inflammation which aroſe, pointed out the neceſſity of removing it. The part was dreſſed with a mild ointment; and a cure completed in a fortnight from the operation. This is one inſtance, among many others which I have ſeen, to prove, that it is as ſafe to open ſcrophulous abſceſſes as any others: but it would be unreaſonable to expect, that a cure can be as certain in a weak habit, as in a ſtrong one.

I conſulted the ſame ſurgeon reſpecting a caſe of abſceſs of the knee, in a young man, ariſing from contuſion. He had been three months in an hoſpital; and was then adviſed to try his native air. As he was going to the place by ſea, this gentleman, who placed too much confidence in ſalt water, deſired him to try it in the different

ſorms of immerſion, lotion, and cataplaſm; and alſo to drink it. The town to which he went was a bathing-place; but neither the means already mentioned, nor any others recommended by an able ſurgeon under whoſe care he was in the country, availed any thing. After ſome months had elapſed, he returned to town; and applied again to me. The diſeaſe had increaſed, and not only the bones forming the joint of the knee were enlarged; but the abſceſs was ready to burſt near the patella.

After this event, I waited till I had ſeen the progreſs of the complaint; and as, in addition to local ſymptoms, hectic fever, and a waſting of fleſh, portended inevitable deſtruction to the patient, unleſs it were averted by an operation performed without loſs of time, I told my opinion to his mother; who was ſo imprudent as to inform him of it rather abruptly. Upon hearing this, he expreſſed a wiſh to go into an hoſpital; in which I aſſiſted him. The ſurgeons there flattered him with almoſt a certain proſpect of a cure. The means employed to accompliſh that end, conſiſted principally in mercury rubbed into the joint. It would be an inſult to the underſtanding of my readers, to inform them what ſucceſs attended this proceſs. Mercury is certainly a moſt valuable remedy in ſome diſeaſes; but, uſed as it is at preſent, it reſembles the god who preſides

over

over it; who ſends many a ſoul to the ſhades; and is repreſented with *winged feet.*

This unfortunate young man was at length diſmiſſed from the hoſpital. He returned into the country: where amputation was performed, and he died anaſarcous, at the end of three weeks!

Were I to relate the particulars of the great number of cancers which I have ſeen prove fatal, through the neglect of thoſe gentlemen, on whom the improvement and proſperity of the art depend, according to Mr. Chevalier, who affirms that their merits cannot poſſibly be greater than they are, I ſhould tire the reader's patience, and excite feelings that would be painful. I ſhall, however, mention a few caſes, in order to ſhow, that the practitioners alluded to are ſo far from having any thing to boaſt of, that they will find it difficult to juſtify their conduct.

No error is more common, or more fatal, than that of making a diſtinction between a ſcirrhus and a cancer. No man is worthy of the name of a ſurgeon, who does not diſcern, and attempt to cruſh, that cockatrice in the egg.

Inſtead of this, I have known a *pure ſurgeon*, an Examiner, aſſure a lady, that a ſcirrhus, accompanied

companied with lancinating pains, and a ſenſe of ſcalding heat extending over the whole ſide, *would not be attended with any material inconvenience, if ſhe ſhould live twenty years.* I had before informed her huſband, that I had no hope from any remedy, but extirpation; which opinion proved too true; for, in little more than a month, the tumor was grown ſo large and ſo painful, that another ſurgeon who was conſulted with me, declared it muſt be removed. Accordingly I removed it; and the patient recovered.

I was applied to by a lady, who perceived a tumor in the breaſt, in conſequence of a bruiſe. From the ſtate in which I found the breaſt, I gave the ſame opinion to her huſband as in the former caſe. Nevertheleſs, to avoid any appearance of too much precipitation, I applied leeches; and called in another ſurgeon, an Examiner, in conſultation. He flattered the patient much more than I could in conſcience do: whether from error of judgment, or from intereſt, I cannot ſay. As the progreſs of the caſe by no means juſtified any opinion he gave, firſt or laſt, during the courſe of four or five months, it muſt evidently be owing to one of thoſe cauſes. The patient attributed his *favourable* opinion of the caſe to *intereſt*. I muſt candidly confeſs, I aſcribed it to *a different cauſe*.

It

It is needleſs to ſay, that a number of remedies were tried in this caſe, though I had at firſt given my opinion to the gentleman called in conſultation, that I had never known one of them ſucceed; *in which he agreed with me.* In proportion as the caſe grew more deſperate, he flattered the patient the more with hopes of a cure. At length, after ringing changes with mercury and cicuta, which have deſtroyed more cancerous patients than all the other medicines in the world, by deluding the unhappy ſufferer with falſe hopes, and preventing a timely recourſe to the only remedy, he confeſſed that amputation muſt no longer be deferred. This was accordingly performed, and the wound healed; but the diſeaſe had affected the whole habit, from neglect; and ſoon after appeared in various parts of the body. Over its melancholy termination, I beg leave to draw a veil.

I was conſulted about a ſcirrhous tumor of the breaſt, near the axilla, which had been perceived a year and a half, in a girl about fifteen years of age. Though decided in opinion as to the neceſſity of removing it, I did not chuſe to propoſe an operation, without the ſanction of ſome other ſurgeon. The gentleman whoſe opinion was aſked, recommended remedies which have ſeldom or never anſwered the expectations of the practitioner. At our ſecond meeting, the diſeaſe had

made a progreſs; and when he propoſed to try the ſame remedies for ſome time longer, I expreſſed my opinion, that they were not likely to effect a cure. To this he replied, that the operation would not be a trifling one; and he did not conclude the diſeaſe to be of a cancerous nature, as *he did not know what ſuch a young girl could have to do with a cancerous humour*. Such language and ſentiments are fitter for a nurſe than for a ſurgeon. He gave ſuch falſe hopes to the patient and her friends, that I was told by them, they would not trouble me to call again, as they could not afford to pay more than one ſurgeon. I call them *falſe* hopes in more reſpects than one: in the firſt place, becauſe they were contrary to his real opinion, expreſſed to me in private; in the next, becauſe they proved fallacious. When we met the ſecond or third time, he ſaid, in the hearing of the patient and her mother, he thought I had taken off the breaſt: this was an unguarded, if not an inſidious expreſſion; as I had never adviſed, or propoſed the operation: but confeſſed to him in private, that I did not expect to ſee the complaint cured; that at firſt I ſhould have thought it adviſable to perform it, but was afterwards doubtful, from the increaſe of the diſorder, if it would not be too late.

He informed the mother of the patient, he did not doubt of curing the complaint, by a few pills and a courſe

courſe of ſea bathing. Prejudiced againſt me by miſrepreſentation, and beguiled by fair promiſes, they diſmiſſed me. They were of opinion that I wiſhed to remove the part, at a time when I had told three of their friends the contrary: for I thought it too late. This gentleman, who is an Examiner, now knows, that a young girl *may have ſomething to do with a cancer.*

I was conſulted by another patient, for a ſimilar complaint. She had before applied to another ſurgeon; who had given her mercury. Inſtead of her receiving any relief from this medicine, hectic ſymptoms ſupervened, and emaciation; which, from the waſting of the cellular membrane, and conſequent flaccidity of the breaſt, made her ſuppoſe the two ſcirrhous tumors diminiſhed.

After mature conſideration, and a cautious introduction of the ſubject, I recommended amputation of the part affected; to which the patient replied, that ſhe could not form ſufficient reſolution at preſent; but if ſhe could make up her mind, ſhe would apply to me again. A few weeks after, I was ſent for, to attend her for a peripneumony. As ſoon as this complaint was removed, ſhe again ſpoke concerning the ſcirrhous tumors. They had increaſed in ſize, and the pain was become more acute. Inſtead of two, there

were now three; and two in the other breaſt. We conſulted a late eminent ſurgeon, alſo celebrated as an anatomiſt; who gave his opinion, that as it was *too ſoon* to think of any operation, he would try a liniment which he mentioned. My only reaſon for conſulting another ſurgeon in that caſe was, that I thought it *too late* for an operation. His liniment, together with leeches applied frequently, proved uſeleſs. The patient, after trying the various remedies propoſed by him and others, dragged on a miſerable exiſtence; and at length fell a victim to that dreadful diſeaſe, a cancer.

Not many years have elapſed, ſince it was the faſhion to brand ſurgeons with an accuſation of cruelty to their patients; and to call them butchers. I hope this charge was ill-founded: but certain I am, that many of the ſurgeons of the preſent day run into the contrary extreme. I have repeatedly heard a ſurgeon ſay: "My patient "has requeſted me to take off a leg." This is an imputation on the practitioner; for no patient would be likely to make that requeſt, till the ſurgeon had proved himſelf unable to perform a cure, and unwilling to propoſe an operation. Such ſurgeons would do well to reflect, that it is not an indifference to the ſufferings of the patient, but a regard for his welfare, which can reconcile any practitioner to that deſperate remedy:

—immedi-

—— immedicabile vulnus
Enſe reſcindendum, ne pars ſincera trahatur.

To avoid an imputation of neglect, and at the ſame time a charge of cruelty, thoſe gentlemen call an occult cancer a ſcirrhus, a tumor, a lump, a ſcrophulous diſeaſe; or, in ſhort, any thing, in order to cover their timidity, and their anxious concern for *their own reputation.*

Mr. Pott, after obſerving that the extirpation of ſcirrhous tumors, while they continue *indolent*, has often proved ſucceſsful, and the patient has continued free from any complaint of this kind during life, gives his opinion, that this is, and ever will be, a ſufficient reaſon for *preſſing* ſuch operation for indolent tumors, when all other circumſtances are favourable. He adds, "that "the ſcirrhus would remain through life indolent "and inoffenſive, is very improbable." He tells us, that "when a ſcirrhus is favourably circum-"ſtanced, and ſo ſituated as that it may be ex-"tirpated, ſuch extirpation is the only remedy." After reading theſe remarks, how have I been ſurpriſed to hear thoſe ſurgeons, on whom, according to Mr. Chevalier, the improvement and proſperity of the art immediately depend, affirm, in ſcirrhous and cancerous caſes of long ſtanding, where the tumors were grown large, and the ſhooting pains violent, that they ſaw no preſſing occaſion for an operation!

I was

I was lately conſulted by a ſurgeon, concerning a cancer of the breaſt of eight years duration. He had before conſulted another practitioner; a gentleman of great eminence. We all concurred in opinion, that no cure could be expected, but from amputation; and that amputation was ſtill adviſable, as the diſeaſe was confined to the breaſt. A day was fixed for the operation; but the patient was prevailed on by a relation, firſt to aſk the opinion of a ſurgeon with whom he was acquainted; one of thoſe, on whom, it is ſaid, *the improvement and proſperity of the art depend.* He ſaid, he was ſurpriſed how the gentlemen who had ſeen the patient, could think of propoſing the knife. My readers will imagine he thought it *too late.* Quite the reverſe: he thought it *too early.* As a proof of which, after taking the patient out of the hands of her own ſurgeon, he promiſed to cure her in a month: but was ſo far from fulfilling his promiſe, that he left her worſe than he found her.

As a humble remonſtrance to this gentleman, and others, who may call themſelves *pure* ſurgeons, I beg leave to tranſcribe a few paſſages from Bell's excellent Syſtem of Surgery. That author, as well as the three ſurgeons who agreed in opinion concerning the forementioned caſe, has ſtudied and practiſed ſomething beſides ſurgery. I ſhall leave it to the world to decide,

which

which kind of ſurgeon ought to be called *pure*, and which *impure*.

The celebrated author above mentioned, in the chapter on the amputation of cancerous breaſts, ſays: "We have elſewhere ſhown, that cancer, "on its firſt appearance, is perhaps, in every in- "ſtance, a local affection only; that the cancer- "ous diatheſis is produced, not by any original "affection in the conſtitution, but by abſorption "from a local ulcer; and hence we concluded, "that every cancerous ſore ſhould be removed "by immediate amputation, wherever this can be "practiſed."

"This, we think, ought to be an eſtabliſhed "maxim, in the treatment of all caſes of cancer, "wherever they are ſituated; but from their be- "ing, as we have ſaid, more apt to infect the ge- "neral ſyſtem when ſeated on the mammæ than "on other parts of the body, this is an additional "reaſon for early amputation in every cancerous "affection of the breaſt."

"As every ſcirrhous gland in this part, is apt "to degenerate into a real cancer, and as indura- "tions of this nature have hitherto reſiſted the "effects of every other remedy, we ſhould on "*every* occaſion adviſe their removal by early "amputation. This, we know, is a point, with

"reſpect

" reſpect to which practitioners are not univer-
" ſally agreed; as it is alleged by ſome, that
" ſcirrhous glands in the mammæ have been
" known to remain in an indolent, inoffenſive
" ſtate, for a great length of time; and there-
" fore, that their removal ought never to be at-
" tempted, till they have actually proceeded to a
" ſtate of ulceration.

" But this opinion, which is evidently founded
" in *timidity*, has been the cauſe of much unne-
" ceſſary diſtreſs to ſuch individuals as have fol-
" lowed it; and has brought the operation of
" amputaing cancerous breaſts into a degree of
" general diſcredit, which it does not merit.
" There is no fact of which I am more convinced,
" than that many more would recover by means
" of the operation, were it employed in a more
" early period of the diſeaſe, particularly while the
" glands are ſtill in a ſcirrhous ſtate, and before
" any matter is formed in them; and as inſtances
" of their remaining in an *indolent* ſtate for any
" conſiderable length of time are *very rare*, no
" dependence ſhould be placed on their doing
" ſo. It is not a ſingle inſtance or two, on
" which, in matters of this kind, an opinion
" ought to be formed: it is the reſult of general
" obſervation which ought to direct us; and
" every unbiaſſed practitioner muſt confeſs, that
" what

" what we have here aſſerted reſpecting this mat-
" ter, is, at leaſt in general, well-founded.

" The propriety of early amputation of
" ſcirrhous breaſts being admitted, and the prac-
" tice eſtabliſhed, it may poſſibly happen in a
" few inſtances, that ſcirrhous tumors of this
" part may be removed, which might have re-
" mained in an indolent ſtate for ſome time
" longer. But as this will not frequently hap-
" pen; as we have no means by which we can
" judge with certainty between ſuch caſes as
" might remain for ſome time in this indolent
" ſtate; and thoſe, the progreſs of which would
" prove more rapid; and eſpecially, as the ad-
" vantages derived from early amputation are
" great, no heſitation ſhould occur in putting it
" *univerſally* in practice.

" When practitioners, therefore, have an op-
" portunity of amputating cancerous or ſcirrhous
" breaſts early, they ought *always* to embrace it."

Mr. Pott, in his Remarks on the Neceſſity of Amputation, in certain caſes, makes uſe of the following arguments, which may be employed, *mutatis mutandis*, in defence of operations in general, and in defence of having timely recourſe to them, when they appear neceſſary.

" When a judicious man ſays, that a limb " ought to be removed, it is not to be ſuppoſed he " means to ſay, that it is abſolutely impoſſible, " at all events, that ſuch limb can be ſaved, nor " that ſuch patient muſt infallibly die, if the " operation be not performed; no, he only " means, that from repeated experience of him- " ſelf and others, in all times, it has been found, " that the circumſtances above mentioned put the " patient's life much more to hazard in an at- " tempt to ſave the limb, than the operation does " in removing it; and therefore, that humanity " as well as judgment determine for the latter. " On the other hand it muſt be allowed, that " from ſome of the worſt of theſe caſes, ſome " have had the good fortune to eſcape; but eſ- " capes they ſo truly are, that I make no ſcruple " to affirm, that in certain caſes and circum- " ſtances, a determination not to amputate, is a " determination much more unfavourable and " hazardous to the patient, than that for amputa- " tion can be."

This opinion, ſanctioned not only by the two great improvers of the art, whom I have juſt quoted, but by the ſuffrage of many other able men, I oppoſe to the mal-practice before alluded to; and recommend a careful peruſal of it to all ſurgeons, *both young and old.* It may be full as uſeful to them, as reading hiſtories of the Uni-

verſity

verſity of Paris, or Rymer's Fœdera; or as a tedious examination into a heap of old muſty records, in order to aſcertain whether Richard de Wy was the firſt barber-ſurgeon ſtatedly appointed to attend the king's perſon, and to mow the crops of the royal head and chin.

After all the panegyrics pronounced on the framers of the Surgeons' bill, by themſelves and their dependants, let any one ſcrutinize their practice with the critical eye of a profeſſional man; let him recollect, what advances towards perfection have been made in the art itſelf, what excellent practical treatiſes have been written, what excellent ſchools of ſurgery are eſtabliſhed in this metropolis. Let him then read the account I have given of the practice of thoſe, who aſpire to abſolute dominion over the Corporation; and ſay, whether he perceives the marks of ſupremacy ſtamped on their foreheads; whether their talents appear more exquiſite, or their ingenuity and ſkill of a divine original, more than thoſe of other men.

I ſhall add another ſpecimen or two, of the manner in which ſome of thoſe practitioners treat other caſes that fall under their care. I attended a gentleman, who had a fracture of the olecranon; that is, the proceſs of the ulna forming the elbow. In a fracture of this bone, or of the

patella, which correſponds to it in the lower extremity, it is ſtill the cuſtom, as it formerly was in all other fractures, to keep the limb extended. This poſition of the fractured portions of the bone brings them as near as poſſible into contact; and expedites their reunion.

It is well known, that reſt is commonly deemed neceſſary for a fractured limb. In the preſent caſe, I was over-ruled by one of the gentlemen alluded to; who had ſuperior influence, from prejudices entertained in his favour by the patient. He deſired that the fore-arm might be kept in a ſtate of flexion; and that I would make uſe of a rotatory motion of the limb every day, to prevent that motion from being loſt, by an archyloſis between the radius and ulna. In ſpite of theſe impediments, ſome degree of union took place between the fractured parts, by the intervention of a ligamentous ſubſtance; but by the means recommended by the ſame practitioner, to overcome the rigidity of the joint, occaſioned by long-continued inflammation from the original accident, the tendon was ruptured, and the whole ſcheme rendered abortive. Whether this practice can be conſidered as an improvement, I ſhall leave to Mr. Chevalier to determine.

On

On the ſame day that I bound up this fracture, I alſo bound up a fractured olercranon for a general officer far advanced in years; who had been thrown down in the ſtreet by robbers, and fallen on his elbow. In this caſe, the olecranon was ſhattered into five pieces: nevertheleſs, by means of plaſter, bandage, reſt, and keeping the limb in a ſtate of extenſion, a perfect cure was accompliſhed in a month.

It is, or ought to be, well known to all ſurgeons, that in a ſtrangulated hernia, mortification may commence in a few hours. Being ſent for by a woman labouring under this alarming diſeaſe, I had recourſe to the uſual methods; but not reducing the hernia, I called in another ſurgeon; a man of great eminence. He likewiſe failed in his efforts: but recommended repeated trials, and the exertion of more force than I thought prudent, in order to overcome the difficulty. I was decidedly of opinion, that the operation would have been leſs dangerous; but was obliged to bow to ſuch great authority. To avoid giving her friends much trouble, the patient went into an hoſpital. This was two days after ſhe perceived the ſtrangulation. There, the firſt day was partly loſt, and partly ſpent in idle attempts to reduce the rupture. The next day, a conſultation was held, and it was judged *too ſoon* for the operation; on the day following, there

there was another conſultation; and it was then judged *too late*. This opinion reſted on good grounds, diarrhæa, coldneſs of the extremities, and a total ceſſation of pain. Notwithſtanding all theſe irrefragable proofs that the caſe was deſperate, one of the ſurgeons who had previouſly aſſiſted in the conſultation, and joined in deciding that all attempts were hopeleſs, went again to the hoſpital in the evening, and performed the operation. The poor woman ſurvived *till the next morning*.

—— Quis, talia fando,
Temperet a lacrymis?

This caſe, I hope not common, the gentleman whom I had conſulted, propoſed to lay before the governors of the hoſpital; but as I ſuſpected perſonal animoſity had ſome ſhare in ſuggeſting that meaſure, I diſſuaded him from it. Even now, though compelled by truth and juſtice to deny the ſuperiority of profeſſional talents which the framers of the bill arrogate to themſelves, it is with reluctance I bring forward theſe facts. It would be a crime to diſſemble, and to conceal them at this time, when every artifice is employed to depreciate the profeſſional characters of the members of the Corporation at large, in the eſtimation of the public, for the ſake of perpetuating an odious monopoly, and grati-

gratifying a deſpotic junto with an increaſe of deſpotiſm.

It is well known, that from an amputation of the leg below the knee, after the common method, the joint of the knee is rendered uſeleſs; and the ſtump is kept in a bent ſtate, projecting backwards, and cauſing a conſiderable inconvenience and deformity. The unfortunate ſufferer finds walking a ſevere labour, and often thinks life dearly purchaſed on ſuch terms.

To remedy this evil, various means have been deviſed; but none that deſerved general approbation, till Mr. Allanſon of Liverpool diſcovered, that healing by the firſt intention was practicable in capital operations. By reviving the flap-operation for the leg, and availing himſelf of his ineſtimable diſcovery, he has probably rendered a greater ſervice to the world, than any other ſurgeon of this, or of any age, or country.

By his improved method of operating, the patient preſerves the uſe of the joint, and walks with eaſe and pleaſure. Theſe remarks I have, in other parts of this publication, in ſome meaſure anticipated; not intending to inſert particular caſes here: but undeſerved aſperſions, repeatedly caſt on the profeſſional characters of the opponents of the late Surgeons' bill, have

ſince

ſince challenged a diſcloſure of the whole truth.

Having had ſome ſhare in introducing that improvement into this great metropolis, where the operation had been performed only once before, excepting one unſucceſsful attempt in an hoſpital, I ſhowed the caſe to ſeveral profeſſional men, with an intention of recommending a ſimilar operation inſtead of that in common uſe; the gentlemen on whom *the improvement and proſperity of the art* are ſaid to depend, not having condeſcended, at that time, to adopt it. The operation had ſucceeded, and the cure was complete; when I was ſo unfortunate as to introduce one of the ſupporters of the late bill to the patient, who adviſed, that he ſhould have a long ſtrip of ſticking-plaſter applied to the part, in order to prevent a retraction of the gaſtrocnemius muſcle. I remarked, that the ſkin was irritable, and had been excoriated by the ſlips of adheſive plaſter which had already been applied. To this he anſwered, that he had a ſort of ſticking-plaſter, which never produced any ſuch effect. I knew at the time, this muſt be a miſtake; and have ſeen different inſtances ſince, to confirm that opinion; but, from the confidence with which it was pronounced, his aſſertion gained credit with the by-ſtanders, eſpecially from the gentleman's holding

holding a ſituation of ſome rank. The conſequence however was, that I had nearly loſt all the reputation I had acquired by the caſe. An excoriation, as large as the plaſter, took place; which confined the patient much longer than the operation had done; and was not healed without great difficulty. The ſame gentleman, when conſulted about a diſeaſe confined to *the thigh*, declared it was a *lumbar abſceſs*.

Of ſuch members is the Court of Aſſiſtants principally compoſed. Yet, to two reſpectful applications from the opponents of the late bill, made at the inſtance of Lord Thurlow, before his Lordſhip had declared his opinion of them to the world, the members of that Court did not deign to give an anſwer; and, after a conference, held in conſequence of a third application, they returned a contemptuous reply.

After recapitulating the propoſitions offered by the deputation of their opponents, the deputation of the Court of Aſſiſtants produced, at the ſecond interview, the following reſolution:

" The propoſitions ſtated by the deputies have " been ſubmitted to the Court of Aſſiſtants; and " two of them having been repreſented as indiſ- " penſable, viz. That all officers be elected " annually, by ballot of the members of the

" Corporation at large; and that there be no " diſqualifying bye-law, ſo far as regards the " practice of midwifery and pharmacy :

" The Court have conſequently taken theſe " propoſitions into their conſideration; and have " inſtructed their committee to inform the depu- " ties, that they are unanimouſly of opinion, " that public utility, as well as their duty, call " upon them unequivocally to declare; that, to " admit the propoſed alterations in the act of " Parliament, by which the Corporation of Sur- " geons has been governed for upwards of fifty " years, and under the influence of which the " public have been greatly benefited, and the " profeſſion of ſurgery been rapidly riſing in repu- " tation, would be *degrading to its profeſſors, and* " *abandoning the ſervice of the public.*"

After expreſſing their diſapprobation of theſe two propoſitions, they declare their readineſs to renew the conference, in order to ſettle the other part of the arrangement, provided their opponents will diſpenſe with theſe two demands.

The opponents of the Surgeons' bill, having gained one complete victory, were ſo far from wiſhing *to triumph over fallen enemies*, that they forgot the inſults and injuries formerly received from the framers of the bill; and again propoſed a con-

a conference, in order to conciliate the contending members of the Corporation. To their friendly and polite overtures, a friendly and polite anſwer was returned. After the conference a long pauſe enſued,—a month at leaſt elapſed, before an anſwer was returned; and we have reaſon to ſuſpect, that advantage was taken of this interval, to ſteal a march on the members of the Corporation at large; to abuſe the confidence they placed in the iſſue of the negotiation, to prepare a freſh bill for the ſubverſion of their rights, and forge new chains to enthral them.

The anſwer of the Court of Aſſiſtants to the propoſal for an interview, breathed a ſpirit of moderation:

"—— but they their wonted pride
Soon recollecting, with high words, that bore
Semblance of worth, not ſubſtance, gently rais'd
Their fainting courage, and diſpell'd their fears."

Who would expect the authors of the Surgeons' bill, who made ſuch an indifferent figure in the Houſe of Lords, during the laſt campaign, to ſpeak in ſuch a lofty tone? It ill becomes the heroes of Surgeons' Hall to talk ſo big in the cabinet, who looked ſo little in the field. *Pride goeth before deſtruction; and a haughty ſpirit before a fall.*

That the public have been benefited by the inſtitution of a Court of Examiners, although founded on erroneous principles, I ſhall not poſitively deny. Without any compliment to that tribunal, or its members, we may ſuppoſe that many ſtudents are ſomewhat more aſſiduous, from having an examination hung over their heads *in terrorem*. Thus, we admit, ſurgery may have flouriſhed under its influence, as a field of corn flouriſhes under the influence of *a ſcare-crow*.

How far the Court of Examiners have diſcharged the duties of their office, may be determined from the following anecdote. A noble and learned Lord aſked one of the principal ſupporters of the bill, what objection he had to allow the members of the Corporation at large a ſhare in the management of their own affairs? The anſwer was, Some of them are ignorant, my Lord. To this his Lordſhip replied: The more ſhame for you, Mr. G——, to let looſe a ſet of ignorant fellows, to poiſon me.

An attempt to injure the profeſſional characters of any members of the Corporation, is rather unbecoming in thoſe gentlemen, who grant *the venal diploma*. To place this argument in a clearer light, I ſhall preſent my readers with the form of that diploma:

" Know

" Know all men by theſe preſents, that we, " the Maſter, Wardens, and the reſt of the " Court of Examiners of the Company of Sur- " geons of London, to that purpoſe choſen and " conſtituted by the authority of Parliament, " have deliberately examined Mr. ——, and do " find him a fit and capable perſon to exerciſe " the art and ſcience of ſurgery; and we do ad- " mit him to practiſe in the ſame art, according " to the force, form, and effect of the ſtatute in " that caſe made and provided. In witneſs " whereof we have ſubſcribed our names; and " have cauſed the common ſeal of the ſaid Com- " pany to be ſet to theſe preſents."

This declaration reduces the Court of Examiners to an unfortunate dilemma. If the ſucceſsful candidates merit this diploma, the Court of Examiners injure *them* by detraction; if not, they injure *the public*, by granting a licence to commit manſlaughter with impunity.

When the members of the Court of Examiners object to univerſal ſuffrage, and univerſal eligibility, and expreſs an apprehenſion of being degraded by ſuch an alteration in the conſtitution of the Company, they pay themſelves an ill-judged compliment; and betray a conſciouſneſs, either of their own miſconduct, or of their own defects. *Degeneres animos timor arguit.* How

can

can thoſe men be worthy to be members of a Corporation, who are not worthy to be *eligible* to office? How are thoſe men fit to practiſe ſurgery, who are not judges of the comparative merits of other ſurgeons, nor even worthy to be *electors?*

When therefore the officers of the Corporation refuſe to ſubmit to the choice of practitioners examined and approved by themſelves, they proclaim, not the unworthineſs of the members of the Corporation at large, but *their own unworthineſs*, to all the world. It is not an aſſociation with ſuch men, nor their approbation, but the fear of being rejected by them, which occaſions an alarm. Whatever contempt for pharmacy theſe gentlemen may entertain, (for it is well known, people ſometimes deſpiſe what they do not underſtand), none of them would be *degraded*, nor would *public utility* ſuffer any great detriment, if ſome of them were ſent to learn pharmacy, which they ought to have learnt before; and others were remanded to *the peſtle and mortar*, from which they ſprung.

But though I diſapprove of the excluding bye-law, becauſe I deem it an unjuſt ſtigma, yet I doubt if the apprehenſion of the Court of Examiners is well founded; that, in caſe of univerſal ſuffrage, their Court would be filled with apothe-

apothecaries. In the firſt place, it is natural to ſuppoſe, that hoſpital-ſurgeons, and profeſſors of anatomy, would, in general, be preferred as Examiners. Beſides, it is well known to the members of the Corporation, that mutual jealouſies, and jarring intereſts, would commonly prevent the practitioners of pharmacy from trying to aggrandize each other. In addition to theſe arguments, it muſt be obſerved; that *gratitude for paſt*, and *hopes of future favours*, would influence all thoſe, who have no expectations of riſing to the ſame eminence, to vote for the practitioner who ſends *them* his preſcriptions.

With ſuch advantages, the preſent rulers of the Company can have nothing to fear, but from ſuperior abilities; nor even from ſuperior abilities, till the miſts of prejudice are diſpelled. It is, therefore, for the ſake of confirming this prejudice, that they wiſh to confirm their execrable bye-law by act of Parliament.

When we conſider, that beſides the members who have taken an active part againſt the bill, and thoſe who reſide at a diſtance, in all near eighteen hundred, the Corporation can boaſt the names of Oſborne, Underwood, Cruikſhank, Clark, and Croft, we cannot but be rather ſurpriſed, that Mr. C. ſhould wiſh to ratify that opprobrious

probrious bye-law, and degrade ſuch characters. Whether he was really the author of the book, or only fathered the offspring of another, as ſome ſuſpect to have been the caſe, he deſerves to have the fourth letter of the alphabet added to his degree; and the three letters brought into cloſe conjunction. It might then be ſaid, that much learning had made him *mad*.

The gentlemen whoſe names I have enumerated, *ſtill* practiſe at leaſt one of thoſe branches of the profeſſion, which Mr. C. deems inferior. Moſt of them *have* practiſed the other. Two of them are very eminent profeſſors, whoſe lectures Mr. C. has attended; from which he has drawn, or might have drawn, a conſiderable ſhare of anatomical, chirurgical, and obſtetrical ſcience. Surely, no motive of ſelf-intereſt, or hope of favour from the great champion of the bill, to whom, *dum fortuna fuit*, Mr. C. ſeemed literally to *adhere*, could inſtigate him to approve of that obnoxious bye-law; and caſt an unmerited reproach on thoſe celebrated profeſſors, to whom he is indebted for the beſt part of his own knowledge.

Mr. C. ſpeaks of *inferior branches*; and as he ſpeaks of them as juſt cauſes of excluſion from the offices of the Corporation, or College, it is evident he means pharmacy and midwifery; the

two

two only branches of the medical profeſſion that are debarred from preferment in the Corporation. They may ſtill cup and ſcarify; they may ſtill bliſter and glyſter; they may ſtill "draw teeth, "or breathe a vein." But if they ſend out one potion for the colic, or bring one human creature into the world, they forfeit all claim to the honours of Surgeons' Hall.

How unjuſt and unwiſe this prohibitory bye-law is, with reſpect to pharmacy, I have elſewhere ſhown. As to midwifery, it is an art, to which thoſe who are in the habit of diſparaging it, probably owe their exiſtence. It cannot be inferior in importance; perhaps it is ſuperior, to any other branch of ſurgery, or of the medical profeſſion. Two lives, at leaſt, are generally concerned in it; ſometimes more: and, to ſpeak in appropriate terms, it is *pregnant with difficulties.*

A contempt for that profeſſion, can only be harboured in low and grovelling minds. Having remained too long in the hands of the ignorant and illiterate, it has not yet quite ſhaken off the prejudice entertained againſt it, by the vulgar and uninformed: but, beſides the chirurgical ſkill requiſite for a practitioner of that art, the medical knowledge which is indiſpenſably neceſſary for the due diſcharge of his office, ought to have enſured him reſpect.

Of the difficulties ariſing from a deformed pelvis, from a retroverted, or a contracted uterus, from uterine hemorrhages, and from convulſions in the time of labour, the healer of wounds, the bone-ſetter, amputator, and lithotomiſt, can form but a faint conjecture: how much leſs a man, who, it is ſaid, acts only as a common ſurgeon and apothecary; and labours under all the prejudice ſo unjuſtly excited againſt his profeſſion.

One of the defenders of the bill endeavours to aſſert the honours of ſurgery, by ſaying, that it is of a recondite and abſtruſe nature. How much more recondite aud abſtruſe is the obſtetric art, both from its nature, and the neceſſity of obſerving peculiar delicacy in its operations? But its practitioners have no opportunity of blazoning their fame by public exhibitions, and performances, in the theatre of an hoſpital. On the contrary, their judges are *old women*; who are moſt likely to cenſure, when they ought to applaud.

Mr. C. affirms, that the theory of medicine is the true baſis of ſurgery. If ſo, it is rather unfortunate that any perſons are permitted to practiſe ſurgery, without paſſing ſome ordeal, and giving ſome proofs of their underſtanding the elements of that ſcience. I knew a very eminent

ſurgeon,

ſurgeon, who declared, rather in a boaſting manner, and with a conſiderable degree of ſelf-ſufficiency, that he had never read Sydenham; and, to do him juſtice, I believe his declaration was true. This gentleman was of opinion, that animal food was not hurtful in the ſmall pox; and that in another well-known complaint, no medicine was more efficacious than *bread pills!*

Another very eminent ſurgeon, one of the preſent Examiners, not above four years ago, confined his patients during the eruption of the ſmall pox; and was afraid of letting them go acroſs the ſtreet. The ſame gentleman directed ſtimulants to be copiouſly adminiſtered to a perſon labouring under a violent inflammatory diſeaſe of the arm: but his advice was not followed.

Should there not be ſome regulation, to prevent the ill effects of ſuch empiriciſm; which threatens the more fatal conſequences when ſanctioned by great names? If ſurgeons are to practiſe in the *medical* department, let them be ſubject to a *medical tribunal.*

It is a practice with ſome of thoſe who do not practiſe pharmacy, or midwifery, to call themſelves *pure* ſurgeons. I hope they will in future *ſtick to their laſt*, and keep their *hands* pure.

The title *mere* ſurgeon would be full as proper. But if they will lay aſide that modern phraſe, and uſe the language of their predeceſſors, the world will agree to call them, as heretofore, *ſurgeons*; or ſay, Mr. —— is *only a ſurgeon*. What havoc muſt have been made among their patients by *the worſt* of thoſe who are only ſurgeons, meddling in phyſic, from the numerous errors we have ſeen committed by the *beſt! Amicus Pott, amicus Hunter, magis amica Veritas.*

Mr. C. tells us, it has been conſidered as a capital defect in the bill, that it contained no proviſion to oblige the members of the Corporation to aſſemble as a literary body, for the communication of their reſpective obſervations.

He tells us, the Surgeons' Company is a *civil* inſtitution: but there are many who differ from him in opinion; eſpecially the army and navy ſurgeons, who have been treated ſo very *uncivilly* by menaces and extortions; and the members of the Corporation, who have ſuffered ſo much injury from oppreſſive bye-laws.

To be ſerious;—Mr. C. means, if he means any thing, that it is a ſociety founded on a broad baſis; intended to promote a public purpoſe; that it is a national inſtitution. He tells us, that the

end

end for which the Company was incorporated, was not the advancement of learning; but ſomething very different: viz. to protect the public from ignorant and unqualified practitioners. Thus we ſee, it is acknowledged by one of their own advocates, that this ſociety was not intended for the advancement of knowledge; and, that to offer literary performaces to a *Corporation*, is to caſt *pearls before ſwine*.

This was the idea of the governors of the Corporation; who had ſuch an inſuperable averſion to all learning and improvement, that they uſed to bribe themſelves with five ſhillings a head, out of the common ſtock of the Company, for every lecture they attended at the Hall; and probably they thought themſelves but indifferently paid, for ſubmitting to ſuch penance.

Not ſo the conqueror of Italy; that hero, whoſe praiſes are reſounded even by his enemies. When elected a member by the National Inſtitute in France, he preſented the following addreſs: "The greateſt of all triumphs, the only "conqueſts which occaſion no regret, are thoſe "made upon ignorance; and the moſt ho-"nourable, as well as the moſt uſeful employ-"ment for nations, is to contribute to the exten-"ſion of human knowledge." This great man thinks learning, as well as virtue, its own reward;

ward; and would ſcorn to receive five ſhillings, for attending a lecture of the ſociety that has choſen him a member.

Fas eſt et ab hoſte doceri.

That the Corporation was meant to be a *political* inſtitution, is doubtful; that it is not a *politic* one, is certain. It is neither calculated to be productive of any material ſervice to the community in general, or to this city in particular. If it deſerves the title of a civil inſtitution in any ſenſe, it is only in one of the ſenſes aſſigned to it by Johnſon, that it is *not* a *natural* inſtitution.

Independent of its impolitic proviſions, and the unconſtitutional powers conferred on its ſelf-elected governors, this Corporation bears intrinſic evidence of its being neither an emanation from the executive government, nor from the legiſlature; but the fruits of a conſpiracy againſt the rights of profeſſional men, and the intereſts of the public. Had the Company been incorporated for the ſake of protecting ſociety from ignorant and unqualified practitioners, the act of incorporation would have contained a clauſe, to prevent ſurgeons from practiſing without a diploma. It is a little remarkable, that the Court of Examiners ſhould have been fifty years in diſcovering,

covering, that they were not provided with proper powers to anſwer the end of their inſtitution.

Mr. C. obſerves, "It would be a curious, and "very uſeful undertaking, to inveſtigate the "principles of organization in ſmall ſocieties: a "ſubject certainly worthy of inquiry; but hi-"therto very little underſtood, or even conſi-"dered." I ſhall therefore attempt a ſhort eſſay on that ſubject; and chalk out a ſlight ſketch, in hopes that Mr. C. or ſome other able hand, will complete the deſign.

One ſpecies of ſmall ſociety is called a confederacy. Its organization is extremely ſimple; and conſiſts in linking two or more perſons together in the bond of ſelf-intereſt. This kind of ſmall ſociety is generally hoſtile to the peace and happineſs of mankind. Such was the confederacy which enſlaved the people of Poland; and ſuch was the confederacy which enſlaved the ſurgeons of London.

Another ſpecies of ſmall ſociety is called a gang. The former plunder by wholeſale; the latter by retail. The latter as well as the former, at length become ſo hardened, from eſcaping with impunity, that they have been known to commit their depredations in the purlieus of *Newgate* and the

the *Old Bailey*; and even to pick pockets *under the very gallows*.

There is another ſpecies of ſmall ſociety, called a Corporation:

> There at his banquet ſits the lazy drone,
> And reaps the fruits of labours not his own.

It differs in ſome meaſure from a college, which conſiſts of working bees alone. Theſe, if they are ſuffered to remain unmoleſted, are induſtrious; and endeavour to approve themſelves valuable members of the community: but I would adviſe Mr. Chevalier not to provoke them, otherwiſe he may find they have *ſtings*.

Mr. C. obſerves, that "the labours of the "Royal Academy of Surgery in Paris need no "encomium. They are before the public in "five quarto volumes; replete with proofs of the "ability of their authors." The Counſellors of the Academy of Surgery in London have publiſhed only one ſmall pamphlet, entitled, The Surgeons' Bill. This, which may be called *multum in parvo*, is a greater curioſity than any thing contained in the whole five quarto volumes of the French Academy. It tends to exalt the authors of it above their fellows. No ſuch extraordinary production ever iſſued from the council of any other learned ſociety under the ſun: I beg

their

their pardon; they ſeem to have been under the influence of *the moon.*

Mr. C. pays a juſt tribute of applauſe to the labours of Mr. Pott. They redound highly to his honour: but till it can be proved that the Corporation had a ſhare in his works, it has no more a title to ſhare in his fame, than in the fortune which he left behind him. He alſo beſtows a high encomium on Mr. Hunter: but this is an everlaſting reproach to the Court of Examiners; which, till the day of his death, never elected him one of their number.

Mr. C. takes notice, that "in the year 1743 an "edict was iſſued in France, diſſolving the con-"nexion between ſurgeons and barber-ſurgeons; "*that ſurgery was rapidly improving in England*; "*that anatomy was taught in ſeveral parts of the* "*city of London by profeſſors of conſiderable ability*; "*that ſeveral new hoſpitals had been erected, and in* "*all of them the education of pupils was admitted.*" He adds, "The good effects of theſe charitable "inſtitutions were every where viſible, by the "ſtriking recoveries of patients who were ſent up "to them from all parts of the country, in caſes "formerly conſidered as almoſt certainly fatal. "The public mind was therefore diſpoſed to think "favourably of an art, by the perfection of which "every one might look for relief, under a large

" and afflicting portion of the ſufferings common " to humanity."

Theſe circumſtances, it ſeems, together with the rank the French ſurgeons had obtained, increaſed the deſire of the ſurgeons of London to break off their connexion with the barbers. How unfortunate it is for the credit of certain gaſconading gentlemen and their encomiaſts, that Mr. Chevalier has not a better memory. Had he not forgotten himſelf, and the cauſe he has eſpouſed, he would not have made the age of improvement in ſurgery commence two years before the ſeparation of ſurgeons from barbers. He would firſt have given an account of the erection of Surgeons' Hall; and then have exclaimed in triumph: *Incipiant magni procedere menſes!*

Previous to the period above mentioned, Mr. C. obſerves, " it was almoſt impoſſible for the ſur- " geons in England to keep pace with their bre- " thren in France: that there were but two hoſ- " pitals in London; that no pupils were al- " lowed in one, and only nine at a time ad- " mitted in the other; that the rulers of the " united Company, a majority of them being " barbers, ſtrenuouſly maintained the bye-law, " which ſubjected every member who diſſected a " body out of their Hall without their permiſ- " ſion,

" ſion, to a penalty of ten pounds, and rigor-
" ouſly proſecuted all who diſobeyed it." The removal of theſe impediments, and the abolition of the title of Barber-ſurgeons, might do much towards recommending the profeſſion of ſurgery to men of liberal education; and enabling them to make a proficiency in the ſcience. But to what was this reform of its eſtabliſhment owing? To what, but to the gradual improvement of arts and ſciences, in this and other countries; and to the eſtabliſhment of anatomical ſchools, and of hoſpitals which pupils were ſuffered to attend?

Thus we find, that the ſurgeons did not diſſolve their connexion with the barber-ſurgeons, till the golden age of improvement had begun to dawn. Hence, advantage may be taken by ſome future *knight errant*, who may ſally forth to defend the cauſe, and to vindicate the honour of *barber-ſurgeons*. He may pretend, as other gentlemen and their *Chevaliers* have ſince pretended, that the improvements made in their time, are made by their influence, and under their auſpices.

Upon this occaſion, I cannot help fancying that I ſee Barber-ſurgeons' Hall in an uproar, and hear the clerk of the Company read the fol-

lowing reſolution of the Court of Aſſiſtants: namely, *(not, to wit)*,

" The propoſitions ſtated by the duputies have " been ſubmitted to the Court of Aſſiſtants; and " two of them having been repreſented as indiſ- " penſable, &c.

" The Court have conſequently taken theſe " propoſitions into their conſideration, and have " inſtructed their Committee to inform the De- " puties, that they are unanimouſly of opinion, " that public utility, as well their duty, call " upon them unequivocally to declare, that, to " admit the propoſed alterations in the act of " Parliament, by which the Company of Barber- " ſurgeons has been governed for upwards of " two hundred years, and under the influence of " which the public have been greatly benefited, " and the profeſſion of the Barber-ſurgeon been " rapidly riſing in reputation, would be *degrading* " *to its profeſſors, and abandoning the ſervice of the* " *public.*"

How would it have heightened this farce, if there were any members of that Court, who objected to the admiſſion of ſuch as practiſed what they themſelves had practiſed; who had aſcended to that Court by means of an hoſpital, and to that hoſpital by means of *temporary votes created*

at

at their own expenſe? How would it heighten the farce, if there were any members in that Court, who had gained their ſeats merely by their intereſt, or fortune, or connexions? How would it heighten the farce, if there were any members in that Court, who were in an *inſolvent ſtate*; and ſcarce able to ſilence the clamors of their importunate creditors?

If anatomy is now tolerated, if hoſpitals are increaſed, and pupils allowed to attend them; if able profeſſors abound; if an ardent zeal for knowledge is kindled, and an enthuſiaſtic ſpirit of inquiry gone forth; no thanks are due to thoſe, who have held forth nothing but diſcouragements and excluſions, both to pupils and profeſſors in general; and who, from a mean ſelfiſh motive, have tried to damp the ardor of that zeal, and to extinguiſh the ſpirit of that enthuſiaſm, in the breaſt of every rival candidate for fortune and for fame.

The hope of applauſe, and fear of diſgrace, in the trying hour of examination, are powerful incentives to diligence in a generous mind; independent of any merit in thoſe who execute the function of Examiners. If the Examiners of the Surgeons' Company have no profeſſional character but what they have earned by the ſervice rendered to the public in their corporate capacity, they have but little to boaſt.

"Cotem-

" Cotemporary with Mr. Pott," ſays Mr. Chevalier, " were many in England, who have " done honour to their profeſſion and to their " country; and the benefit of whoſe labours is " ſtill deſcending to thouſands, that know little " of the ſource from whence it is derived. The " names of Sir Cæſar Hawkins and Mr. Brom- " field are ſtill in remembrance; and will go " down with honour to poſterity."

Infandum, Chevalere, jubes renovare dolorem!

Let any one look at the portraits drawn by Mr. Chevalier, ſuch *was* the Court of Examiners; let any one look at the portraits drawn by me, ſuch *is* the Court of Examiners. It was once illuſtrious: *But oh! how changed, how fallen!* When Mr. Chevalier recalls to mind the merit of former times, he only makes us lament the more the degeneracy of the preſent. The advocates for a ſcientific body muſt be conſcious of a weak cauſe, and driven to a forlorn hope, when they talk of *hereditary claims:*

Et genus, et proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipſi,
Vix ea noſtra voco.

Whatever talents were poſſeſſed by the majority of the Court of Aſſiſtants, they were all exerted in ſupport of the Surgeons' bill. Whatever influence, intereſt, intimidation, or importunity could

could do, was done. In point of intereſt, power, and patronage, the ſupporters of the bill were every thing: their opponents nothing. The ſtrength of the ſupporters of the bill was immenſe: but it was not directed with equal wiſdom. *Vis conſilî expers mole ruit ſuâ.* They were a brood of giants: but what is to be dreaded even from a brood of giants, when they trample on juſtice, and confound right and wrong, in order to gratify their ambition?

Happy would it be for the public, would they but exert a ſmall ſhare of their talents in medical inquiries; and not doom their patients to fall victims to their empiriciſm. Too many dreadful proofs of their ignorance of medicine occur, to leave a doubt of this in the mind of any practitioner of the leaſt experience. A gentleman who was troubled with a ſurgical complaint, alſo laboured under a violent peripneumony. He had a ſevere cough, hot ſkin, fluſhed countenance, furred tongue, and quick and hard pulſe. Inſtead of the antiphlogiſtic plan, the chief ſurgeon who attended him, a very eminent man, directed a generous diet, in order to promote the incarnation of the ſore. He not only allowed him animal food, but adviſed him to drink porter, and port wine freely; and to take a dram of powder of bark three times a day. After a few days, he foretold, that his patient would die of a de-

a decline; and by perſevering in his plan, verified his prediction.

I have heard it affirmed, that if this gentleman had diverted his attention more to medical purſuits, he would not have made ſo good a ſurgeon. I preſume to think otherwiſe; and to hazard an opinion, that the beſt ſurgeons, when deſtitute of medical knowledge, deſtroy more by their preſcriptions, than they ſave by their operations. Beſides, it is well known, that the neceſſity of moſt operations might be prevented by timely care and ſkill; and that internal and external remedies are equally capable of contributing to that deſirable end. The preſervation of a patient by manual operation, is not the whole duty of a ſurgeon; there is another eſſential part of his profeſſion, which it behoves him to remember: *Occidit qui non ſervat.*

Mr. C. endeavours to juſtify the Court of Aſſiſtants for attempting to alter the conſtitution of the Company, without convening the Corporation. As well might he try to juſtify a ſteward, for attempting to alienate his lord's eſtate without his conſent. Beſides, they petitioned Parliament for a new act, in their individual, and not their corporate capacity. Add to this, having violated two acts of Parliament, they had forfeited

feited all the power and authority over the Corporation which they before poſſeſſed.

Mr. C. remarks, that hitherto the members have taken an oath, to obey the governors in all *lawful* things; but he takes care not to inform us, that by the propoſed act they were to take an oath to obey them in all things, *lawful* and *unlawful*.

He maintains, that by the new act, the Court of Aſſiſtants would not acquire any additional power over the members: forgetting that they would acquire a power of taxing them without their own conſent, and an abſolute dominion over their property. They would likewiſe acquire an abſolute dominion over their conſcience, by an unconditional oath of obedience; and a ratification of that arbitrary and unjuſt bye-law, which excludes nine-tenths of the Corporation from all municipal diſtinctions; and operates as a diſparagement on thoſe who have given the ſame proofs of ability with themſelves.

Mr. C. declares, that the additional power had reſpect to none but future ſettlers, between the diſtance of ſeven and ten miles round London. This is a groſs miſrepreſentation: for it is notorious, and muſt have been known to one who attended the progreſs of the bill in the

Houſe of Lords, that the additional power was likewiſe propoſed to be extended over all army and navy ſurgeons who ſettle in, and within ſeven miles of the metropolis.

But, Mr. C. adds, indeed this could not be properly called an *additional* power; it was only an extenſion of the *ſame* power to *other* objects. According to this doctrine, the Court of Aſſiſtants would not acquire any *additional* power, if they were authorized by act of Parliament to tax all the people of Great Britain.

Mr. C. obſerves, that the moſt material objections to be conſidered, are thoſe which are made againſt the principle of this, and the former Surgeons' bill: by this he means a principle of deſpotiſm. He tells us, that to exorciſe this frightful fiend from the affairs of this extenſive and increaſing Corporation, various expedients have been ſuggeſted. Theſe expedients, he tells us were imperfect. It is no diſgrace to the opponents of the bill, not to have been able to propoſe extemporaneous remedies for all the tyrannical and oppreſſive clauſes, and all the blunders of the Surgeons' bill. It is rather a diſgrace in the authors of that bill, to impoſe on them ſo difficult a taſk.

He tells us, that one of the expedients propoſed was, to make the officers of the Company annually elective. This, however he may diſapprove of it when it ſuits his purpoſe, may be ſupported by arguments which he himſelf has advanced. He aſſerts, that "publicity is always a "ſpur to active minds: that men of talents will "not devote themſelves to any ſcience, without "the uſual encouragements; and that theſe en-"couragements are rank and fortune." It is therefore a natural inference, that the greater the probability of reward is, the greater improvements will be made in ſcience; and the more numerous the candidates are, in whom you excite emulation, the greater proſpect is opened of advancing it to perfection.

Mr. C. informs us, that the ſocieties of ſurgeons of Edinburgh and Dublin have both been incorporated as Colleges without heſitation. This proves, that the objection of Parliament was not to the title of College. In the conſtitution of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Examiners are annually elected by and from the whole College; and yet, Mr. C. admits, they were incorporated without heſitation. Here then is a precedent, here is a model, and the only model, of a College of Surgeons, that is hitherto eſtabliſhed in this kingdom. With ſuch an example, I truſt the Legiſlature will not re-

fuſe to eſtabliſh a ſimilar inſtitution in this great capital: an inſtitution, that ſhall reflect equal honour on themſelves, on the members of a liberal profeſſion, and on the metropolis of the Britiſh empire.

Mr. C. remarks, that the annual election of the Preſident and Council of the Royal Society furniſhed a pretext for this propoſal, to the opponents of the Surgeons' bill. He might have added, that the annual election of the officers of the Antiquary Society, and the annual election of the officers of the College of Phyſicians, furniſhed a ſimilar pretext.

He avers, that, to adopt this alteration, would produce a dependence of the moſt odious kind. This is ſo completely refuted by the experience of other ſocieties, that it ſcarce deſerves an anſwer. It would create no other dependence, but ſuch as has always been found conducive to the welfare of every learned ſociety. A mutual dependence of the old on the young, and of the young on the old, would ſtimulate both to diſcharge their reſpective duties with fidelity.

No man appears more conſcious of the beneficial effects likely to reſult from a frequent election, than the preſent worthy Chamberlain of the city of London; though no man ſtands leſs in need

need of ſuch an admonition. His addreſs of thanks to his fellow-citizens is ſo excellent an elucidation of the point in queſtion, that I ſhall inſert an extract from it in this place:—"Nothing now remains for me, but to endeavour "to juſtify the confidence of my fellow-citizens, "by a faithful diſcharge of my various duties. *I "will never forget, gentlemen, that I am conſtantly "dependent on your ſuffrages: and it is my fervent "hope, that every anniverſary of my appointment "may return with undiminiſhed ſentiments of kind-"neſs on your part, as it will with increaſing ſenſi-"bility and gratitude on mine.*"

Beſides other advantages ariſing from this ſalutary cuſtom, an opportunity is afforded of correcting a bad choice at the end of the year; and of ſubſtituting men whoſe talents are ſtill in their vigour, in the room of thoſe who have ſuffered from inevitable decay. Even Nature herſelf, ſeems to point out the neceſſity of frequent elections:

"Vidi lecta diu, et multo ſpectata labore,
Degenerare tamen; ni vis humana quotannis
Maxima quæque manu legeret. Sic omnia fatis
In pejus ruere, et retro ſublapſa referri.
Non aliter, quam qui adverſo vix flumine lembum
Remigiis ſubigit; ſi brachia forte remiſit,
Atque illum in præceps prono rapit alveus amni."

Mr.

Mr. C. informs us, that " the great plea for " the neceſſity of an alteration in the conſtitution " of the Company, is founded on the ſtatement " of their affairs drawn up by Mr. Gunning. In " this he points out their miſmanagements; which, " as far as they reſpect the preſent ſubject, are " reducible to three heads; *inattention to their* " *minutes and accounts*; *neglect in the conduct of* " *their lectures, and unneceſſary expenſes.*" . He adds, " Cruttenden, the clerk of the Company, " who had been imprudently confided in, went " off with eight or nine hundred pounds of their " money. In this long, unſettled, encumbered " ſtate of things, which laſted near *forty years*, it " is no wonder irregularities crept into the ma- " nagement of their minutes and accounts; " which at length became habitual." Another fault, for which Mr. C. confeſſes they have no ſufficient excuſe, is, that they have not given any regular chirurgical lectures; though they have received two legacies for that purpoſe.

Thus, according to Mr. C.'s own account, the Company may well exclaim: Forty years long were we grieved with this generation. Not only the members of the Corporation were diſſatisfied with their proceedings; but army and navy ſurgeons; a great number of whom were intimidated by their menaces, and ſubmitted to their extor-

extortions, as many an indignant ſufferer is ready to teſtify. Others, to the amount of fifty, entered into an aſſociation, and defied their threatened proſecutions. Complaints againſt their miſmanagement, and their illegal exactions, have been diſſeminated far and wide; yet thoſe gentlemen, in their Defence, circulated among the members of the Houſe of Peers, have the modeſty to aſſert, and Mr. C. re-echoes their aſſertion, that in their conduct, not a ſingle abuſe of power has hitherto been diſcovered; nor one ſingle complaint ever been made againſt them. Surely they have forgotten Mr. Gunning's long catalogue of complaints; recorded in their own minutes; but, alas! recorded in vain. Mr. C. owns they have been *guilty of inattention to their minutes.*

Mr. C. repeats the old pretence of their examining army and navy ſurgeons gratis. This has been ſufficiently exploded in the preceding pages. He acknowledges that the preſent mode of paying the Examiners is exceptionable: and adds, that in the year 1790, a propoſal was made by Mr. Gunning, the Maſter of the Company, to a noble Lord at that time high in office, for Government to allow a ſalary of four or five hundred pounds a year, to be divided between the members of the Court of Examiners, inſtead of fees. He then obſerves, that ſoon after

after this, the war commenced; and it was thought an improper time to urge the matter further. This is a ſtrange reaſon for not continuing to urge the requeſt: for when was Government ſo likely to comply with it, as when the Court of Examiners had it in their power to render important ſervices to the public in return? Were not the characters of thoſe gentlemen well known to be diſintereſted, we might ſuſpect, that they ceaſed to weary Government with their importunities in the time of wars and tumults, and adjourned the queſtion to the halcyon days of peace, only becauſe the war-receipts of Surgeons' Hall far exceeded a ſalary of *four or five hundred pounds per annum.*

Mr. C. alleges, "that as far as miſmanagements have been detected, the Court of Examiners have been their own accuſers, by admitting the free examination of their books. This is a groſs miſrepreſentation. In allowing an examination of their books, they only made a virtue of neceſſity. It was not done ſpontaneouſly; nor until a noble and learned Lord, of great and deſerved influence in the Houſe of Peers, had recommended to the opponents of the bill, in the committee-room of that Houſe, to examine the books of the Company; adding, that if it was refuſed, the Lords would give them an order for that purpoſe. Thus it appears, there was no

ſelf-

ſelf accuſation, or voluntary confeſſion, on the part of the Court of Examiners, or the Court of Aſſiſtants. On the contrary, we have reaſon to conclude, as well from their general conduct, as from particular confeſſion, that they did not recollect the contents of Mr. Gunning's minute; but that the minute itſelf, and their own miſdeeds which had given it birth, were buried together in oblivion. It is probable, the parties accuſed, after peruſing the minute which arraigned their conduct, never thought of it again: otherwiſe they would not have ſuffered ſuch a damning proof of their flagrant dereliction of duty to remain on record, and to riſe up in judgment againſt them, without attempting one ſubſtantial reform till now.

The *great plea*, which Mr. C. talks of, for the neceſſity of an alteration in the conſtitution of the Company, was proved by the clerk of the Company to be a *ſham plea*. It was even denied by the ſupporters of the bill, that any alteration in the conſtitution of the Company was intended: and the ſame doctrine pervades the greateſt part of Mr. C.'s own work. It was a deſire of indemnification that firſt prompted the rulers of the Corporation to apply to Parliament: and it naturally occurred to them, that this was a favourable opportunity to gratify their ambitious views.

Whatever mad ſchemes they deviſed, the members of the Corporation at large were to be the ſufferers :

Quicquid delirunt reges, plectuntur Achivi.

The opponents of the bill have not only ſuſtained great inconvenience and loſs in their profeſſional buſineſs, from the duty impoſed on them of reſiſting the attempted encroachments, but are obliged to bear for the preſent, and perhaps will ultimately bear, the greater part of the expenſe. And wherefore is all this expenſe incurred ? The great plea, it ſeems, is ; that the rulers of the Company, thoſe gentlemen whoſe merits, Mr. C. declares, cannot poſſibly be greater than they are, have been inattentive to their minutes and accounts ; negligent in their lectures, and prodigal in their expenſes ; and required an act of Parliament, to *compel* them to diſcharge their duty.

But was this a reaſon for attempting to rob army and navy ſurgeons, and levy contributions to a greater extent round London ? The ſame plea, *neceſſity*, might be advanced by other gentlemen ; when they levy contributions, and make their collections round London. But when men in power, whether in a *civil* or *uncivil* capacity, think proper to indulge their inordinate ambition, there will never be wanting ſome baſe tool,

tool, ſome mean ſycophant, to varniſh over their crimes;

——and with neceſſity,
The tyrant's plea, excuſe their dev'liſh deeds.

But Mr. C. acquaints us, that the whole pretence for accuſation reſts on their conduct of their own buſineſs; in which the complainers had no right to intermeddle. This is a fine leſſon for ſtewards, that proprietors have no right to intermeddle in the management of their own eſtates. If this is a true ſtatement of the caſe, it is high time for the conſtitution of the Company to be altered.

When Mr. C. declares, that with regard to the conduct of the Court of Aſſiſtants towards the Company at large, not a ſingle abuſe of power has hitherto been diſcovered; not one ſingle complaint has ever been exhibited; he muſt be prepared to go great lengths to ſerve his new friends. This aſſertion is the more ſtrange in Mr. C. after his alluding to many of the complaints brought by the Company againſt the Court of Aſſiſtants for their conduct; ſuch as miſmanagement of the revenues, unjuſt exactions, unjuſt excluſions from places of honour and emolument, miſapplication of legacies, neglect of giving lectures, neglect of purchaſing a library, neglect of calling general courts upon important

occaſions; unjuſt alienations of the property of the Company, improvident purchaſes, improvident expenditure; and laſt, not leaſt, an attempt to deprive them of every veſtige of their remaining rights, and to rivet their chains by a new act of Parliament, obtained without their conſent.

It is rather indiſcreet to hazard ſo bold an aſſertion, as that, no abuſe of power has been diſcovered in the Court of Aſſiſtants, nor one complaint exhibited againſt them, when it is notorious, that for a long time not only the Houſe of Lords, but the whole kingdom, reſounded with the complaints of the Corporation; and, on account of the magnitude of the grievances ſuſtained, and the complaints made, by the Corporation, the public attention was more excited by the Surgeons' bill, than by any other private bill in the preſent age.

When Mr. C. calls the Corporation of Surgeons a civil inſtitution, he ſeems to forget, that its concerns are regulated by private bills, originating from the Corporation. Did Government conſider it as a public inſtitution, as perhaps it ought to be, it would not leave the management of its parliamentary buſineſs in the hands of ſuch bungling workmen.

When

When ruminating on the nature of the defence of the conduct of the Court of Aſſiſtants, ſet up by Mr. C. I was led into a train of reflections, which I think will ſerve more clearly to elucidate the point; and to enable the public to judge of the force of Mr. C.'s arguments. He ſays, as far as miſmanagements have been detected, the Court of Examiners have been their own accuſers, by admitting the examination of their books; and that the whole pretence for accuſation reſts on *their conduct of their own buſineſs*, in which the complainers had no right to intermeddle.

Reflecting on this kind of vindication, I could not help fancying that a nobleman's ſervants had a grand ball and ſupper below ſtairs; that the wardrobes of their lord and lady were ſtripped in order to attire the butler, houſekeeper, and lady's maid; the gentlemen of the livery, the cook, and ladies of the bedchamber; the tables decorated with the choiceſt viands, the ſide-board with plate, and the glaſſes ſparkling with burgundy and champaign. In the midſt of their feſtivity, ſhould the noble owners of the manſion, alarmed at the riot and noiſy mirth, and high life below ſtairs, chance to deſcend, or order to diſcover the cauſe, the domeſtics might tell them, that the nobility have no buſineſs with their own affairs; that they have been entruſted to ſervants from time immemorial; that the whole pretence

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for accuſation reſts on *their conduct of their own buſineſs*, in which the complainers have no right to intermeddle; that as far as miſmanagements had been detected, the defendants were their own accuſers, by admitting the noiſy muſic into the houſe; and that their lord had nothing to do, but to *pay the piper*. If this ſhould not ſatisfy the complainers, they might add, in the words of Mr. Chevalier, that the office they held was *a truſt committed to them for civil purpoſes*; and that a precedent, to juſtify their conduct, might be found in *Lincoln's Inn*.

Mr. C. alludes to the bye-law which excludes practitioners of pharmacy from advantageous offices; but I cannot perceive, that he expreſsly mentions its excluding the practitioners of midwifery. Poſſibly he did not attempt to occupy that poſt, becauſe he thought it untenable: but if midwifery produces nothing better than the authors of ſuch wretched pamphlets, as thoſe we have lately ſeen in defence of the Surgeons' bill, it is leſs beneficial to mankind than any other branch of the medical profeſſion; and ought to be degraded accordingly.

But although he does not directly mention midwifery, he ſeems to glance at it, by ſpeaking of ſurgeons who do not intermeddle with inferior branches of practice. If a branch

of

of the medical profeſſion is contemptible, becauſe it has at times been practiſed by the ignorant, I fear no branch of it deſerves to be held in much eſteem.

Mr. C. obſerves, that the point to be conſidered is, whether there are any good reaſons for confining the government of a college of ſurgeons, to thoſe who are ſurgeons only?

Upon this occaſion, in addition to the arguments before advanced on that ſubject, I ſhall inſert ſome obſervations communicated by a learned and ingenious friend.

"The Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris was "founded in the year 1666.——

"In page 2, tom. i. of the Hiſtory of that "Academy, the editor, who, I believe, was Mr. "Du Hamel, gives the following account of the "improvements of anatomy a little anterior to "this time; which improvements ſeem to have "originated rather from the diſcoveries of a phy-"ſician (Dr. Harvey), than from the ſurgeons "themſelves: and it is, I think, very probable, "that almoſt every improvement, both in ſur-"gery and anatomy, to the preſent hour, may "be traced up to this period; or at leaſt it is much "indebted to the light then thrown out. Cer-

"tainly

" tainly we cannot refer any one of them to the " general merit of the Corporation of Surgeons " of this kingdom, notwithſtanding their extra- " vagant pretenſions.——

" The editor of that work obſerves, that in " England Baron Napier has rendered himſelf fa- " mous by the invention of logarithms, and " Harvey by the diſcovery, or at leaſt incon- " teſtable proofs, of the circulation of the blood. " The honour which has accrued to the whole " Engliſh nation from this new ſyſtem of Harvey, " ſeems to have attached the Engliſh to ana- " tomy. Many of them have taken certain " parts of the body in particular for the ſubject " of their reſearches; as Wharton the glands, " Gliſſon the liver, Willis the brain and nerves, " Lower the heart and its motions, &c.——

" On the commencement of this Academy, as " ſoon as the chamber or company of mathema- " ticians was completed, the attention of its " members was turned to a company or chamber " of phyſic. As our opponents imagine the in- " tereſt of the public would be completely ſa- " crificed, by admitting any into the council " who unite a knowledge of any other branch of " medicine with that of ſurgery, let us ſee how " M. Colbert, the then prime miniſter of France, " acted at that time, in conformity with the ge-

" neral

" neral wiſh of the Academy itſelf. The perſons " he nominated for the chamber of phyſic, con- " ſiſted of two phyſicians, two chemiſts, two " anatomiſts, and one botaniſt.——

" When the mathematicians and phyſicians aſ- " ſembled for the firſt time, the firſt queſtion " propoſed was, whether theſe two boards ſhould " in future be ſeparated, or united? It was de- " termined, that they ſhould be united. 'Geo- " metry and phyſic are in themſelves united, and " depend on each other for mutual aſſiſtance.' " What would our *pure*, or rather our *ſimple* " ſurgeons, think of even a propoſal of this ſort, " at the preſent day? not only a Council uniting " all the branches of the healing art; but even " mathematics and geometry at the ſame time?".

The ſame gentleman has favoured me with the following remarks on Mr. C.'s calculations concerning the late Surgeons' Hall, and the houſe lately purchaſed in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

" If Mr. C. were as accurate as he ought to " have been, conſidering how much the books of " the Corporation were at his ſervice, he would " find, that the expenſes of the old Hall, inſtead " of being annually, as I think he has ſtated " them, at 240*l.* could not amount to more than

 " 213*l.*;

" 213*l.*; but he does not deſcend to parti-
" culars.

" He ſtates, that the annual ſaving to the
" Company will be 160*l.* by the purchaſe of Mr.
" Baldwin's houſe; being the difference between
" 80*l.* the annual amount of the mere taxes of
" the latter houſe, and the above 240*l.*: as if
" 80*l.* were the total annual expenſe of this laſt
" purchaſe. Who does not ſee, that the intereſt
" of the money with which it was purchaſed, is
" the real rent of the houſe itſelf, and ought to
" be notified as ſuch?

" He has ſtated, that the repairs neceſſary to
" be made in the old Hall, would have amounted
" to 2000*l.* Whence he acquired this knowledge,
" I know not: the ſurveyor's report made the
" ſum 1500*l.* He has omitted to ſtate, that the
" repairs neceſſary to be made, even in Mr.
" Baldwin's houſe, according to the ſame report,
" at the very time of purchaſe, would at leaſt
" amount to 500*l.*; as he has alſo, that the ground-
" rent of the old Hall was almoſt reduced to a
" cipher, by an advantageous ſale, on the part
" of the Company, to the Newgate committee,
" of a piece of ground, which uſed formerly to
" be a garden for the clerk; and for which the
" ſaid committee paid the Company 900*l.* on July
" 6th, 1769, over and above 50*l.* an expenſe

" which

" which the clerk pretended to have incurred in
" conſtructing his garden.

" The 260*l.* per annum mentioned by Mr. C.
" accrues, I ſuppoſe, from the intereſt of the
" money, or a part of the money, ſunk in con-
" ſtructing the Hall, added to the annual ex-
" penſe of taxes, &c. Certainly it cannot accrue
" from annual repairs, conſidering the ſtate of
" utter ruin, into which the *prudence* of the late
" Court has ſuffered the building to fall: but the
" greater part of this money is equally ſunk,
" whether the Hall be ſold or repaired: and ſo
" far as relates to this matter, it will be an evil
" felt as fully, in one caſe as in the other. The
" Company, however, have had the uſe of this
" money, and have enjoyed its utmoſt value;
" for they have enjoyed the uſe of the building
" which was erected by its expenditure, till that
" building was completely worn out, and the
" mere ruinous materials remain. No part of
" this money ought, therefore, to be taken into
" conſideration, in the valuation of *preſent* annual
" expenſe, excepting what it was probable would
" be recovered by a ſale of the wreck itſelf.

" The only fair queſtion, then, that can be
" propoſed is the following:

"What is the difference of annual expenſe "incidental to the Company, between a reten- "tion of the old Hall, and the purchaſe of Mr. "Baldwin's houſe, calculating both at the time "of the aforeſaid ſale and purchaſe? both edi- "fices having formerly been worth conſiderably "more.

"To determine this, take the following "tables:

"Value of the old Hall, as eſtimated from the price "given, 2100*l.* Annual intereſt of this ſum which has "now been realized, part being a bond, and part in "the funds, about	£ 108
"Annual ground-rent to the city	60
"Annual taxes	45
"Total annual expenſe of the old Hall at the time of "ſale	213
"Value of Mr. Baldwin's houſe, eſtimated as above, "from the price given by the late Court, being 11,000*l.* "in the 3 per cents. Annual intereſt	340
"Annual taxes	80
"Total annual expenſe of Mr. Baldwin's houſe . .	420
"Former annual expenditure	213
"Annual ſurplus of expenſe to the Company, produced "by the new purchaſe	207

"It

" It is ſaid, however, that 2000*l.* was ſtated " by the ſurveyor as a ſum neceſſary to be ſunk " in repairs of the old Hall. This, as before ob- " ſerved, is alſo an exaggeration; his report " having been 1500*l.* Compare this expenſe " with the ſame ſurveyor's report of monies ne- " ceſſary to be ſunk in repairs, and other mat- " ters conſequent on the purchaſe of Mr. Bald- " win's houſe.

" Repairs of the old Hall	£1,500
" Repairs of Mr. Baldwin's houſe £500	
" Building a library in the houſe, and a theatre " in the Old Bailey, as noticed by Mr. C.	800—1,300
" Surplus of expenſe in repairing the old Hall	200

" So that, after all that has been ſaid, the old " Hall, when fully repaired, would have coſt " only 200*l.* more than muſt be expended in re- " pairs and offices, in conſequence of the late " purchaſe, if it be retained; even according to " the eſtimate of the Court itſelf. To ſave this " 200*l.* to the Company, the officers of the late " Court have conſented to part with a ſum out of " the Company's property, yielding the yearly " intereſt of 213*l.* and this for a perpetuity!! " and yet here is a young man ſent forwards by " themſelves into the world, to trumpet forth " their unrivalled ſagacity in this transfer of " buildings;

" buildings; and the vaſt gain they have hereby
" added to the Company's treaſury!!!

" But they have at leaſt acquired, we are told,
" by their conduct, a freehold eſtate for a leaſe-
" hold; which at once counterbalances every
" poſſible diſadvantage; and proves the late pur-
" chaſe to have been a far better bargain than
" the former. Yet even to this propoſition I
" can by no means aſſent; and for very ob-
" vious reaſons. I have already ſtated, that by
" a fortunate ſale of a part of the ground belong-
" ing to the old Hall to the Newgate committee,
" the Company acquired the nett ſum of 900*l.*
" ſo long ago as July 6th, 1769. What the
" Court have actually done with this ſum, I
" cannot exactly tell: but what they ought to
" have done with it, I have no heſitation in de-
" termining: and that is, they ſhould immedi-
" ately have converted the whole of it, both
" principal and intereſt, into a ſinking fund;
" with a view of defraying the expenſe of erect-
" ing the Hall itſelf, as alſo of being provided
" with an adequate reſource, againſt any very
" heavy repairs that might occaſionally demand
" their attention, or even the purchaſe of a free-
" hold eſtate, upon the actual termination of
" the leaſe, if at that time found adviſable.
" Had this rational plan been purſued, when,
" nearly thirty years ſince, the above ſum of

" 900*l.*

"900*l.* was added to the Company's treaſure, "they would even now have had nearly double "the ſum in their hands, which the ruinous "ſtate of the old Hall required, at the time of "its ſale, to have put it into complete repair: "and had it not been ſuffered to run to ſuch a "ſtate of ruin, and the repairs been from time "to time duly attended to, had they retained "this building in their own hands, and ſtill ſuf- "fered the above ſinking fund to have accu- "mulated, the Company, on the termination of "the preſent leaſe, of which about fifty-four "years remain unexpired, from the above 900*l.* "alone, would have been in poſſeſſion of a fund "iſſuing from the very leaſe itſelf, equal to "twice the purchaſe of the fee ſimple either of "the old Hall, or of Mr. Baldwin's houſe: the "accumulating capital, even allowing occaſional "drafts upon it for neceſſary repairs, at that time "being at leaſt worth 11,000*l.* ſterling.

"Before then I could conſent, that the latter "purchaſe, although that of a freehold, and al- "lowing it had been acquired at a much more "reaſonable ſum, is a better bargain than the "leaſe of the ground for the old Hall, I muſt be "told, that there is a proſpect of benefiting the "Company by the ſum of at leaſt 900*l.* by the "ſale of ſome part of the freehold itſelf. But in- "ſtead of this, inſtead of the Company's ac-

"quiring

"quiring 900*l.* after all the expenſe they have "incurred by the purchaſe, we are told that the "ſum of 1300*l.* more remains yet to be ſpent "upon the eſtate, to make it fit for uſe."

Mr. C. obſerves, that the great objection to the propoſed conſtitution is the power of making bye-laws. Certainly it is conſidered in that light; eſpecially when the perſons veſted with that power are not choſen, nor approved of, by the members of the Corporation at large.

This power he thinks not likely to be abuſed, becauſe no bye-law can be valid, without the ſanction of ſome of the great law officers. "Hence," he ſays, "no wanton, or illegal in-"convenience, can ever be laid upon the mem-"bers at large." That an injury has been committed on the Corporation at large is certain; it is alſo notorious, that it was committed under colour of law. If the law really conferred on them this oppreſſive power, all we can ſay to their tyrannical exerciſe of it is, *ſummum jus eſt ſumma injuria.*

The power of the Court of Aſſiſtants to make bye-laws, Mr. C. ſays, is a *civil* truſt. If ſo, they have exerciſed it rather in an *uncivil* manner. He tells us, it has only theſe objects in view, the qualifications of practitioners, "the

" ſupport of the dignity and privileges of the " profeſſion, and the management of receipts " and expenſes belonging to the inſtitution." That the Court of Aſſiſtants have groſsly neglected their duty in all theſe reſpects, is manifeſt from the proofs adduced againſt them by their opponents, and even from the confeſſions of their own defenders.

" Beyond theſe," ſays Mr. C. " and what *re-* " *lates* to theſe, they can have no power; and " whatever is directed to theſe, muſt be, upon " the whole, advantageous to the members at " large; and cannot admit of any ſubſtantial " grievance, which will not ſpeedily correct it- " ſelf." Under the head of receipts and expenditure, Mr. C. artfully conceals the power of *taxation*. This is a maſked battery, intended to be played off as occaſion may require. Mr. C.'s idea of receipts and expenditure may be well explained by a ſponge. That which was uſed by the Court of Aſſiſtants had a great abſorbent power; but they knew how to ſqueeze it out. They ſqueezed it moſt unmercifully, which was a ſubſtantial grievance; but as inanition increaſed the abſorbent power of the ſponge, as it drank with moſt avidity when it was moſt dry, it was a grievance *which ſpeedily corrected itſelf*.

Not ſo the power of admitting unqualified practitioners. The more they taſted the ſweets of that office, the leſs were they able to refuſe the perquiſites. Not only *poverty*, which has often found a way into that Court, but even *wealth*, is unable to reſiſt the faſcinating charms of *lucre*:

Creſcit amor nummi, quantum ipſa pecunia creſcit.

In ſhort, I appeal to the defences publiſhed in favour of the Surgeons' bill for proofs, that the groſſeſt abuſes have prevailed in the Corporation; and although the indigence of the Company has a tendency to correct itſelf, it is only by the help of extortion.

Mr. C. obſerves, that as the *overſight* of theſe objects muſt be entruſted ſomewhere, Government ought to entruſt it to perſons of *tried* ability. Perhaps, inſtead of *Government*, he ought to have ſaid, *the Legiſlature*. The ability of the late managers of the Corporation has indeed been *tried*, and *found wanting*. It is for Mr. C. to ſay, whether he would wiſh the *ſuperintendance* of thoſe duties to be ſecured in a ſucceſſion of ſuch perſons: we all know, they are well enough qualified for the *overſight* of their duties; for they have *overlooked* them in a ſtrange manner.

Mr.

Mr. C. juſtly remarks, that the power of election is of the utmoſt importance; but argues ill when he maintains it ought to be confined to a few. He thinks twenty-one perſons fully competent to tranſact the buſineſs of the Company; and that where it can be ſafely tranſacted by a few, it is improper to commit it to more. Whatever we may think of the competency of twenty-one to manage the affairs of the Corporation, we agree with him, from paſt experience, that *there is no peculiar charm in that number.*

Mr. C. takes notice, that the reciprocal influence of perſonal and official dignity, is one of thoſe ſubjects, on which *the new light* has not yet condeſcended to ſhine. I beg therefore he will inform us, whether there is more official dignity in an extortioner, or perſonal dignity in an inſolvent? for neither of thoſe characters is new in that Court. *Their reciprocal influence muſt be great.*

Mr. C. alludes to the bye-law which excludes practitioners of pharmacy; and is of opinion, that although it has been the ſubject of many ſevere animadverſions, "the circumſtances muſt "be very rare, that will make a departure from "this rule admiſſible." It muſt be acknowledged, that, owing to the want of encouragement, or rather to the diſcouragement, held out

to them by the Court of Aſſiſtants, the majority of the members of the Corporation, who are practitioners of pharmacy, have not cultivated their chirurgical talents as they could have done: but for this their oppreſſors, who ought to be their protectors, are to blame.

But Mr. C. tells us, that if circumſtances ſhould occur, that make it neceſſary to depart from this rule, thoſe who make the bye-law will have full power to make the exception. This is a very convenient bye-law: it may be broken at pleaſure. It is a draw-bridge, which will ſerve to keep out rivals: but it will accommodate itſelf, to let in a friend upon occaſion.

Mr. C.'s confeſſion is rather unfortunate for his patrons. It proves that the bye-law was not intended to keep out *unqualified* perſons; for ſuch they need not elect; but to raiſe a prejudice againſt thoſe members of the Corporation, who, from a more general knowledge of the medical profeſſion, had ſuperior claims to the confidence of the public.

What but jealouſy has cauſed all the ſurgeons of diſpenſaries to be proſcribed? It is no difficult matter to prove, that in *curative* ſurgery, many ſurgeons of diſpenſaries, as well as private ſurgeons, are no leſs ſucceſsful than thoſe who be-

long

long to hoſpitals: and in operative ſurgery, perhaps not leſs expert. Such mean jealouſies, and ſelfiſh monopolies, in profeſſional men, are no leſs injurious to the public, than diſgraceful to themſelves.

To the great names, with which this work is interſperſed, of ſurgeons blending other branches of the medical profeſſion with their own, may be added all army and navy ſurgeons, and forty-nine out of fifty of thoſe who are ſettled throughout the Britiſh dominions: men, who, by their ſkill in the medical as well as the ſurgical department, and by greater attention to their patients than what is met with in hoſpitals, prevent the frequent neceſſity of operations; but many of whom are capable of performing them, when neceſſary, in a manner that does them no diſcredit. In Scotland, pharmacy is practiſed by ſurgeons in general.

As the defenders of the Surgeons' bill agree in beſtowing high encomiums on the Academy of Surgery in Paris, I ſhall extract a few obſervations from the preface to their Memoirs, in order to correct ſome erroneous ideas entertained by the friends of the bill. My readers will excuſe my giving theſe quotations an Engliſh dreſs, though leſs elegant than the original.

"If

" If ſurgery is ſo difficult to be acquired, " would it not be entertaining an unjuſt idea of " it, to reduce it to the art of operating? This " art is undoubtedly an eſſential part of it; it is " the operation which principally characteriſes " the ſurgeon: but the art of operating, conſi- " dered abſtractedly, depends merely on anato- " mical knowledge, and dexterity of the hand. " Practice gives this dexterity; but it gives not " the genius and the lights which ought to di- " rect it."

" Hence, they who eſtimate the value of " ſurgery by operations alone, they who believe " that it is nothing but a long habit of operating " that forms a great ſurgeon, labour under a very " groſs miſtake. In order to judge the better in " this reſpect, let us examine operations as they " are in themſelves: they may be reduced, either " into operations which are deſcribed, or into " thoſe operations which vary according to the " parts on which they are performed, and ac- " cording to the difference of the diſeaſe.

" The place of thoſe operations which are de- " ſcribed is always fixed, the line is traced, the " courſe of the operator is governed by rules. " Can the habit which guides the ſurgeon in this " line, where all the ſteps he is to take are " marked out, and from which he cannot de-

" viate

" viate if he has any memory or eyes, can this
" habit be a deciſive proof of capacity and
" talents?

" Thoſe ſurgeons who reſt all their merit on
" this foundation, degrade themſelves, and diſ-
" parage their profeſſion. The knowledge which
" is ſo neceſſary in ſuch caſes to direct the hand,
" does not comprehend all that is requiſite to
" form a ſurgeon. The operations which are
" regulated thereby, although they generally
" ſtrike the vulgar, are but one point in the cure
" of diſeaſes. A knowledge of the caſes which
" require them, of the accidents that enſue, and
" the treatment which ought to vary according
" to the nature and the diverſity of thoſe ac-
" cidents, are not all theſe eſſential objects of
" ſurgery?

" The profound knowledge which conſtitutes
" the baſis of ſurgery, conſtitutes the merit and
" the difficulty of that art: it ſhows us, at the
" ſame time, from what hands we may expect
" its advancement. Great ſurgeons are as rare
" as genius, learning, and talents: genius is the
" ſource of light, it is the univerſal inſtrument;
" but it is, if we may be allowed the expreſſion,
" like the body: it becomes torpid from inac-
" tion. A mind that is uncultivated is as inca-
" pable of diſtinguiſhing objects, of ſeeing their
" affinities,

" affinities, and of purſuing a regular chain of " reaſoning, as the body is of agility and flexi- " bility without previous exerciſe. It is there- " fore neceſſary, that the underſtanding ſhould " be prepared for its initiation in ſurgery, as well " as for its initiation in other ſciences: that is to " ſay, it ſhould be furniſhed, in the ſtudy of this " art, with that knowledge which unfolds to us " the operations of nature. Without this know- " ledge, it is impoſſible to penetrate to thoſe " truths, which form the rules, by which we " ought to conduct ourſelves in the cure of " diſeaſes."

Our authors next inform us, that the progreſſive improvements made in ſurgery, are owing entirely to ſuch as were guided by this knowledge. After mentioning the names of ſome of the moſt eminent, they add, " *Many of theſe great men* " *joined the title of phyſician to that of ſurgeon*; " *becauſe in foreign univerſities phyſic has not been* " *ſeparated from ſurgery, as in the Univerſity of* " *Paris.*"

Here is a tacit acknowledgment of the members of the Royal Academy, of the impolicy of their Univerſity, which refuſed to admit ſtudents into the faculty of medicine, unleſs they abjured ſurgery. Let ſurgeons of the eighteenth century, who wiſh to imitate ſuch illiberal conduct, bluſh:

bluſh: let them ſee, by the confeſſion even of *ſurgeons*, whom they are in the habit of extolling, that ſurgery is indebted for the progreſs it has made, to our illuſtrious countryman Harvey, and other practitioners of medicine; and diſcern the impolicy of excluding from the government of the Corporation thoſe who blend any other branch of the healing art with their own.

Mr. C. affirms, that ſurgery has flouriſhed under the late regulation. In like manner, Chriſtianity flouriſhed under Julian the apoſtate. He does not even pretend, that the governors of the Corporation have done any thing for the improvement of the ſcience, except in their individual capacity. The only ſeminaries for the education of ſurgeons, are private anatomical theatres; and hoſpitals, in which the Corporation has no concern, and over which it has no control.

He tells us, that the members of the Court of Aſſiſtants have aſked for higher rank, becauſe it has already been beſtowed on their brethren in Scotland and Ireland; whoſe merits, great as they may be, cannot be ſuperior to their own. It is rather unfortunate, that Mr. C. has brought ſuch a body of evidence againſt his patrons, as muſt invalidate all his teſtimony in their favour.

Upon the whole, I cannot but declare, that Mr. C. appears to be the cat's-paw in this work. He publiſhes again, in a confuſed and contradictory manner, thoſe allegations of the petitioners for the Surgeons' bill, which have already been ſo completely refuted. It is, however, a little ſtrange he ſhould aver, that the merits of the managers of the Corporation are ſuch as cannot be exceeded, after allowing, that they have been negligent in their accounts, laviſh in their expenditure; and that they had omitted to give lectures for the improvement of the ſcience, although two legacies were left for that expreſs purpoſe. He does not inform us, *that they omitted to receive the legacies.*

He tells us, they have aſked for an addition of three miles to their juriſdiction, *for the public good and ſafety only.* He adds, that as the means of inſtruction are now ſo much eaſier of acceſs, it is doubly diſgraceful that practitioners ſhould be ſuffered, who are deſtitute of proper information. But, as the means of inſtruction are ſo eaſy of acceſs, why ſhould not every ſurgeon be compelled to undergo the ſame examination; eſpecially as the only objects with the Court of Aſſiſtants are the public good and ſafety? From their diſintereſted ſpirit, it may be preſumed, that, for the public good and ſafety, they would have no objection to examine every ſurgeon in the

the kingdom, provided they receive half a guinea each for his diploma.

He tells us, that the preſent ſtate of their funds will permit them to exonerate their members from the further payment of quarterage. If ſuch is the ſtate of the funds, after their late profuſe expenditure, the quarterage muſt long have been an impoſition.

He tells us, "they will be enabled to ſet on "foot an eſtabliſhment for chirurgical inſtruc- "tion; greatly needed, and loudly called for by "every principle of policy and national juſtice." Here is a frank confeſſion, that the purpoſe for which the legacies were bequeathed to the Corporation was laudable, and the inſtitution of lectures neceſſary; nay, that it was loudly called for by every principle of policy and national juſtice. Yet we are told, that the managers of the Corporation, whoſe merits cannot be ſurpaſſed, have long been in poſſeſſion of endowments and funds deſtined for that purpoſe; which they refuſed to apply to their proper uſe. Having no confidence in their own intentions, they wiſh to bind themſelves to the performance of their duty, by an act of Parliament.

Since I began writing theſe remarks, I have converſed with ſeveral gentlemen who were

preſent at the meetings at the Crown and Anchor, who aſſure me, that Mr. C. was at firſt one of the moſt ſtrenuous oppoſers of the Surgeons' bill; and that he was one of thoſe who aſſiſted in drawing up the petition to the Houſe of Lords; and ſigned that petition. He was alſo one of thoſe, who paid the firſt ſubſcription towards defraying the expenſe. At the ſecond meeting, he read a paper, containing reaſons for changing his opinion of the bill. Theſe reaſons were derived from *official authority*; but, as Mr. C. obſerves, they produced little impreſſion on the company.

If the objections to the bill were of no force, as Mr. C. affirms, it is rather ſurpriſing he became a proſelyte to them. It is no compliment to the Houſe of Lords to aſſert, that the bill was thrown out by that Houſe in conſequence of objections which were of no force; eſpecially a bill which had three times received the ſanction of the Houſe of Commons, and paſſed twice through the Houſe of Lords, and thrice through a committee of that Houſe. Objections of no force could never induce ſuch a grave aſſembly, conſiſting of ſenators educated in the ſcience of legiſlation, and of the brighteſt luminaries of the law, to acknowledge their errors, and reſcind their reſolutions.

They

They who ſaw how cloſely Mr. C. ſtuck on his new friends, after his apoſtacy, and who have read his panegyrical performance, may fancy they ſee a fiſh of the paraſitical kind, who, conſcious of his own weakneſs, clings to a fiſh of a larger ſpecies, from inſtinct: yet is ſo far from conferring any benefit on the animal to which it is attached, that it only encumbers him with a dead weight. He loads his new friends with undeſerved praiſe; which is ſharper than the ſevereſt ſatire. He hugs them like a bear; and kills them with his kindneſs. The fate of the Court of Aſſiſtants is ſingularly hard: their pretended friends prove their bittereſt enemies. He makes the third *Iriſh* defender; who has undertaken their cauſe, and left it *the worſe for his defence.*

He ſeems confident, that after peruſing his book, written by a ſurgeon and apothecary, the Legiſlature will be convinced, that a ſurgeon and apothecary is more ignorant than a ſimple ſurgeon,—that thoſe who underſtand two or three branches of a profeſſion are more ignorant than thoſe who underſtand but one, and conſequently, that the Surgeons' bill ought to paſs, and will paſs.

He ſuppoſes there are gentlemen, who fancy that the bill bears ſome reſemblance to the arbi-

trary ſyſtems of government in different parts of Europe, which have lately been blown up with revolutionary gunpowder. Hence he labours the more aſſiduouſly to ſupport the Court of Aſſiſtants; and concludes, that now when *he* has riſen to aſſert their cauſe, the bill will paſs.

Should that great event, the devout wiſh and ardent prayer of the ſelf-elected rulers of the Corporation, take place, Mr. Chevalier ought, as a reward for his ſervices, to be ſtationed before the gate of the houſe lately dedicated to Æſculapius in Lincoln's Inn Fields. There he may ſtand, *like Janus with his double face*; and guard the temple.

Should that renowned bill, that precious monument of deſpotiſm, the devout wiſh and ardent prayer of every ſelf-elected ruler of the Corporation, be preſerved from the ravages of revolutionary gunpowder, which Mr. Chevalier ſo much dreads, another inſtance will ſtand on record to prove, that ſmall cauſes may ſometimes occaſion great events. *Rome was ſaved by the cackling of a gooſe.*

When Mr. C. eſpouſed the cauſe of the Court of Aſſiſtants, and aſſerted their claim to an act of Parliament conferring collegiate honours, he little expected they would ſo ſoon abandon that claim.

claim. He little expected, they would ſo ſoon deſpair of procuring an act, on the principles of the late bill. Of this, the confident manner in which he ſpeaks of the probability of their ſucceſs in the preſent ſeſſion, is a ſufficient teſtimony.

He had little reaſon to apprehend, that they would ſo ſuddenly renounce the proud object of their ambition, that of rivalling the College of Phyſicians in rank and dignity; and be content with ſoliciting a patent for their practice, like ſo many quacks; putting themſelves on a footing with a brother-member of the Corporation, the proprietor of Leake's pills.

They who know, that the Court of Aſſiſtants have been trying in vain to appeaſe that great man, who, in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, vanquiſhed them with his breath, are not at a loſs to account for their having reſolved on this humiliating and degrading meaſure. The recollection of their diſcomfiture in the Houſe of Lords, terrified their imaginations:

——for ſuch another field
They dreaded worſe than hell: ſo much the fear
Of Thurlow's thunder, and the voice of Thurlow,
Wrought ſtill within them.

When

When Mr. C. called the victorious opponents of the bill panic-ſtricken gentlemen, he little ſuſpected his own clients would again be panic-ſtricken quite ſo ſoon. He and his friends had formed but a faint idea of the inflexible integrity, and unſhaken reſolution, of that great man, who had once before diſappointed their ambition.

Juſtum et tenacem propoſiti virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium
Mente quatit ſolidâ.

What mortification muſt Mr. C. have felt, when, after his confident aſſurance of ſucceſs in *Parliament*, he condeſcended once more to act as the humble emiſſary of the ſupporters of the bill; and, at a general meeting of the members of the Corporation, recommended a concurrence and co-operation with the Court of Aſſiſtants in their endeavours to obtain *a patent!* This propoſal, a great majority of thoſe who were preſent, ſpurned with indignation.

It has been rumoured, that the noble and learned Lord allowed, the friends of the bill might obtain a patent. This, if true, was no great compliment: it is no more than might be ſaid of all the quacks in the kingdom. Certain it is, he denounced the wrath of Parliament againſt any future Surgeons' bill, founded on the principles of the laſt. Certain it is, they have not

not yet forgotten the force of his eloquence, nor recovered from the ſhock of his reſentment.

——So much the ſtronger prov'd
He with his thunder: and till then who knew
The force of thoſe dire arms?

The frequent and ſubmiſſive embaſſies of the Court of Aſſiſtants to him, who has hitherto fruſtrated all their deſigns, and blaſted all their hopes, prove that their pride is humbled; that they ſue for grace, and tremble at his diſpleaſure. The renunciation of all hopes of parliamentary ſanction to their ambitious projects, and their preſent humble attempts, prove that their embaſſies were unſucceſsful.

Had Mr. C. been a member of one of thoſe embaſſies, he would have beheld a manly character: not a reed ſhaken by the wind; but an example of conſtancy, and an emblem of the Britiſh oak.

Ille, velut rupes vaſtum quæ prodit in æquor,
Obvia ventorum furiis, expoſtaque ponto,
Vim cunctam atque minas perfert cœlique mariſque;
Ipſa immota manet.

The members of the Corporation at large would be wanting in gratitude, did they not alſo pay the juſt tribute of applauſe to many other

 diſtin-

diſtinguiſhed perſons of rank and talents; who honoured their cauſe with ſupport. By their indefatigable exertions, and their diſintereſted zeal, they have deſerved well of the members of a liberal profeſſion; and are entitled to be ranked among the benefactors of mankind.

Amidſt all the calamities and misfortunes of the preſent hour, from whatever ſource they ſpring, I truſt we are not fallen on ſuch evil days, but that we have ſtill ſenators, who deem other objects beſides war and finance worth their care. We have ſtill ſenators, who, by their unwearied attention to other duties, have evinced a due regard to the health and happineſs of the people:

Quique ſui memores alios fecere merendo.

If the fortunate opponents of the late Surgeons' bill are not wanting to themſelves, I truſt, they will never want the ſame countenance and protection which they have already experienced. A ſteady perſeverance in the line they have hitherto purſued, cannot fail to crown their efforts with final ſucceſs; by ſecuring an act, calculated at once to protect the rights of individuals, and promote the cauſe of ſcience; an act, founded on the broad baſis of univerſal juſtice, and the public good.

THE

THE following circular letter, from the Committee choſen by the general meeting of the members of the Corporation, will ſhow the preſent ſtate of affairs.

"*SURGEONS' COMMITTEE.*

"London Coffee-houſe, Ludgate-ſtreet,
"SIR, March 3d, 1798.

"THE Committee nominated by the laſt general aſſembly of the members of the late Corporation of Surgeons held at this place, for the purpoſe of preparing a bill of incorporation, have been ſurpriſed at the circulation of a letter from Mr. Oakey Belfour, their late clerk, ſignifying, that the perſons ſtill aſſuming the title of Court of Aſſiſtants, had judged it right to petition the Crown for a charter; and attempting to juſtify their illegal ſale of Surgeons' Hall, &c. and the injudicious purchaſe they have made. The Committee deem it their duty to expreſs their entire diſapprobation of this conduct. It appears upon this, as upon all former occaſions, the Court of Aſſiſtants, without deigning to conſult the members at large, have predetermined what is to be done; leaving them no other power than that of affixing their names to a petition; and it ſeems that they have already reſolved to apply for the charter, however few the ſignatures they may be able to procure. This innovation of a charter is contrary to the ancient practice.

"It is now two centuries and an half ſince the ſurgeons of London were firſt incorporated by acts of Parliament, which was done with the manifeſt approbation of the whole kingdom. It was evidently agreeable to the preſent Parliament, that the Corporation of Surgeons ſhould continue to be united by their authority; for the Houſe of Commons paſſed a late bill for that purpoſe, and the Houſe of Lords paſſed it likewiſe on the two firſt readings; it was rejected on the third, not becauſe their Lordſhips were averſe to the ſurgeons being incorporated by an act of Parliament, but on account of certain unjuſt and oppreſſive clauſes which had been introduced into the bill. It is likewiſe clear, that the whole body of ſurgeons (without exception), from the days of Henry the Eighth to the preſent time, have preferred being incorporated by an act of Parliament.

"This was the uniform opinion of thoſe who petitioned againſt the late bill; and ſurely it was that of thoſe who petitioned for it, or why did they petition at all? It muſt particularly have been the opinion of the late Court of Aſſiſtants, who cauſed the bill to be preſented. They can only have altered their opinion now, in conſequence of finding it impoſſible to deceive the watchful eye of Parliament, by obtaining clauſes injurious

to

to the public, and to the rights of the members of the late Corporation.

" For theſe, and other reaſons which might be urged, it is requeſted, that no member of the late Corporation will ſign the petition for the charter; which is intended to ſubvert their ancient laws and government; or that they will at leaſt wait till the Committee lay before them a draft for the intended bill, which will be ready in a few days.

" It will then be found, that the Committee have adopted ſuch clauſes as have a tendency to public utility, as well as the honour of the members; that they have amended ſuch parts of the late bill as gave juſt offence to the majority of the late Corporation, and that they have expunged ſuch others as met with the reprehenſion of the Lords of Parliament.

" Your Committee likewiſe think it their duty to inform you, they are well aſſured, that there exiſts at this inſtant a want of unanimity among the members of the late Court of Aſſiſtants, on the propriety of applying for the propoſed charter; the principles of which are preciſely ſimilar to thoſe of the bill ſo lately rejected by the Houſe of Lords.

" By order of the Committee,

" J. SIMPSON."

From

From the notification circulated by Mr. Belfour it appears, that the members of the Court of Aſſiſtants do not think proper to prefer their petition for a reſtoration of the powers of the Corporation, in Parliament, where they are too well known.

It muſt afford great pleaſure to the members of the late Corporation, to hear from the Court of Aſſiſtants, that the public good has been the ſole guide of their conduct: eſpecially as it was a kind of information not likely to come from any other quarter.

They tell us, that in their ſale and purchaſe, they were actuated by motives of ſound policy; and that it is not doubted, but the prudence of that meaſure will be apparent to every member, who will inquire into the particulars of the tranſaction. Having taken no ſmall pains to probe that affair to the bottom, I have laid the reſult before my readers in the preceding pages. Thoſe who will take the trouble to peruſe the account there given, will know what the members of the Court of Aſſiſtants mean by *prudence* and *policy*.

The ſame gentlemen inform us, that the number of the members of the Corporation has prodigiouſly increaſed: and well may the number increaſe, when, for the ſake of ſordid lucre, they have,

have, as one of their own advocates confeſſes, overwhelmed the whole empire with deſpicable pretenders.

At the late general meeting of the members of the Corporation, (whoſe powers are now dormant), ſeventeen perſons were ſelected to form a Committee; who were authorized to prepare a bill for a renewal of the late act of incorporation, with the rank and title of a Royal College; and ſuch additional powers and regulations, as the preſent improved ſtate of ſurgery demands. Four of the gentlemen who were nominated for that Committee, not ſatisfied with declining the office, publiſhed an advertiſement, intended to prove ſubſervient to the cauſe of the Court of Aſſiſtants. It is neceſſary, therefore, to ſtate, that thoſe gentlemen practiſe only ſurgery; and have an evident intereſt in the ſucceſs of the cauſe which they ſupport. They have a good foundation for affirming, that the conſtitution of the Company was attended with evident *advantage* to *their* profeſſion; at leaſt to *themſelves*.

It is no wonder, the party whoſe meaſures were in avowed oppoſition to the late infamous bill, ſhould incur the diſpleaſure of the party that were its avowed ſupporters: but it is unjuſt, to charge them with an intention of overthrowing the conſtitution of the Company; ſince it is well known,

known, and acknowledged by all thoſe belonging to either party, who are in the leaſt degree converſant with the ſubject, that the conſtitution of the Company is *already overthrown.*

As a proof of this, the Committees of both ſides now addreſs themſelves to the members of the *late* Corporation of Surgeons. Both parties profeſs an intention of reſuſcitating the dormant powers of the Corporation; one—by patent, the other—by act of Parliament. Whichever party may ſucceed, and under whatever title the Corporation may be revived, I hope it will riſe again, like the Phœnix, more beautiful and more glorious from its own aſhes; and, like Antæus, derive new vigour from every fall.

In the mean time, it may not be amiſs to inform thoſe gentlemen, who decline the office propoſed for their acceptance at the general meeting, that when the majority of the meeting acquieſced in the nomination of hoſtile members, it was for the ſake of conciliating diſſenſions which have too long prevailed; not from a fear of encountering thoſe adverſaries in a ſtate of diſcomfiture, whom they conquered when in all their glory.

FINIS.

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